



# 6th Africa Animal Welfare Conference – Action 2022

Animals, People and the Environment in a rapidly changing  
21st Century

## Conference Report

31 October - 02 November 2022

Travelodge Hotel, Gaborone,  
Botswana



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# Acknowledgements



**Josphat Ngunyo** | Executive Director  
Africa Network for Animal Welfare

Botswana, a country honored as the home of the globally renowned Okavango Delta and the great Kalahari Desert which provide a thriving habitat and ecosystems for unique flora and fauna, hosted the 6th Africa Animal Welfare Conference - Action 2022 at its capital city, Gaborone. It is in great awe that we thank the government of Botswana and the High Commission of Botswana to Kenya for the dedication, effort, time and venue to enable this impactful African conference be a great success. Attended by 367 participants virtually and physically, the conference tackled the theme, Animals, People and the Environment in a Rapidly Changing 21st Century, in extensive presentations, discussions and deliberations. Representatives from civil society organizations, government ministries, government parastatals, academic institutions, research institutes, diplomatic leaders, and animal welfare practitioners gathered and came up with resolutions that would continually address global challenges and bring animal welfare to the fore as a key solution.

Delegates who were present represented different countries including Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Botswana, Ethiopia, Hong Kong, Kenya, Ethiopia, France, The Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Italy, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States of America, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

It is in this spirit that we would like to humbly thank all who hosted, organized and attended the conference.

We extend our gratitude to the government of Botswana

for providing the regal platform that esteemed the needed discussions and resolutions on animal welfare in the continent. We are incredibly humbled to work with the government and are grateful for its kind support. We would like to thank Mr Thabang Leslie Botshoma, the Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agricultural Development and Food Security and Mr Boatametse Modukanele, the Deputy Permanent Secretary for Natural Resources, Ministry of Environment and Tourism from the Republic of Botswana for gracing their presence.

With the government and the Botswana High Commission to Kenya, we would like to thank our co-hosting partners, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and African Union - Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) for organizing and hosting the conference. We avidly thank Mr Alexander Juras and Mr Isaiah Otieno, of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Dr. Nick Nwankpa and Dr. Hiver Boussini of African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) and their teams for being committed and industrious in enabling this conference to happen.

We deeply appreciate H.E. Amb. Gobopang Duke Lefhoko, the High Commissioner of Republic of Botswana to Kenya, for effectively coordinating preparations towards the conference and its implementation in Gaborone. The consistent, keen and unabated focus in organizing and hosting the conference by the Botswana High Commission team will always be profoundly appreciated.

We thank H.E. Amb. Dampsey Asare, the High Commissioner of Republic of Ghana to Kenya and his team for continually speaking for the animals of Africa and across the world. We appreciate Dr Zerubabel Tefera for his great focus and tenacity in facilitating and enabling thorough discussions on animal welfare at the global policy and decision-making forums.

We are grateful to Hon. Garba Datti Muhammad, a Member of House of Representatives of the National Assembly for advocating for animals in Nigeria at the policy level. We thank the Government of Ghana and the six other countries who sponsored the tabling of the resolution at UNEA 5.2, namely: Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Senegal, South Sudan, and Pakistan. We thank them as champions of animal welfare in the continent for their solidarity, advocacy and relentless support.

We take this opportunity to thank Dr Moetapele Letshwenyo of the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), South Africa Region, Dr Gaolathe Thobokwe of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Dr Rene Czudek of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Botswana and Abdelkader Bensada of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Ecosystem Division for grac-



ing the occasion and giving insight on animal welfare in their respective endeavors and fields.

The extensive support provided by the regional and international community is highly valued and deeply appreciated. We thank Philip Lymbery, the Global Chief Executive of Compassion in World Farming International, Wolf Gordon Clifton, the Executive Director of Animal People, Tennyson Williams the Regional Director, Africa, World Animal Protection, Karin Siegmund, the Director of Welttierschutzstiftung (WTS), Andrew Rowan, the Board Chair and Chief Program Officer of Wellbeing International, Linda Edwards, the Chief Executive of Society for the Protection of Animals Abroad (SPANNA) and Dr. James Yeates, the Chief Executive Officer of the World Federation for Animals (WFA). We continue united to ensure that animals are protected and cared for globally.

We heartily thank Prof. James Nkansah Obrempong, the Board Chair of Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW) and Prof. Janet Rumfelt, the Board Chair of Africa Network for Animal Welfare-USA for continually leading and facilitating this grand initiative and fighting to uphold animal welfare work in Africa.

We express appreciation to the Director of Veterinary Services in Botswana, Dr Pearl Mokoka, who was instrumental in planning and providing support towards the successful achievement of the conference. We would also like to thank Dr K.C. Thema for his consistent support. We thank Prof. Madibela and the entire fraternity of Botswana University of Agriculture & Natural Resources (BUAN) for presenting and participating in this conference.

With deep gratitude, we would like to extend our appreciation to our partners who sponsored the 6th Africa Animal Welfare Conference - Action 2022. We thank Animal People, Animal Welfare Institute, A Well-fed World, Center for Animal Law Studies -Lewis & Clark University, Compassion in World Farming, The Society for the Protection of Animals Abroad (SPANNA), Welttierschutzstiftung (WTS), WellBeing International and World Animal Protection.

We profoundly thank the ANAW International Representatives who represent five (5) regions of Africa, the Conference Organizing Committee and the Secretariat. We appreciate ANAW for their technical and logistical support to the Organizing Committee. The resilient, productive efforts and ardent hard work was seen in the culmination of the grand conference.

We thank the Civil Society Organizations led by the Steering Committee of Presidents and CEOs and Africa Union - Inter-Africa Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) for the continued support to Members States and the Informal Open-Ended Friends of the Resolution Working Group in supporting the implementation of Animal Welfare, Environment and Sustainable Development Nexus resolution that is currently being done by UNEP.

We would like to express our gratitude to the presenters, speakers, panelists, moderators, and delegates for participating in productive and wholesome sessions at the conference. The informative studies, deliberations and discussions on the encouraging progress and groundbreaking achievements in the animal welfare field will contribute to its posterity in future generations and will ensure that people on the ground and governments alike protect animals in Africa and across that globe for centuries to come.

Josphat Ngonyo  
Executive Director  
Africa Network for Animal Welfare



# List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

AAWC	Africa Animal Welfare Conference
ACABQ	Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions
AMR	Anti-Microbial Resistance
AMCEN	African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
ANAW	Africa Network for Animal Welfare
APAA	Action for the Protection of Animals in Africa
APAW	Africa Platform for Animal Welfare
AU-IBAR	Africa Union- InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources
AWARFAN	African Women in Animal Resources, Farming, and Agribusiness Network
BUAN	Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme
CBD	Convention for Biological Diversity
CCAWA	Coordination Committee of Animal Welfare in Africa
CGIAR	Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research
COP	Convention of Parties
CPC	Committee on Programme Coordination
CPR	Committee of Permanent Representatives
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GFAS	Global Federation for Animal Sanctuaries
GAW	Global Animal Welfare
ICPALD	IGAD Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
IPBES	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
KSPCA	Kenya Society for Protection and care of Animals
LIDESIA	Livestock Development Strategy for Africa
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MGFC	Major Group Facilitating Committee
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NSPCA	National Council of SPCAs
OIE	Office International des Epizooties (World Organization for Animal Health)
OWA	Open Wing Alliance
PAWS	Promoting Animal Welfare in Schools
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SPANIA	Society for the Protection of Animals Abroad
SPCA	Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
UN	United Nations
UNEA	United Nations Environment Assembly
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UDAW	Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNGA	UN General Assembly
VAWZ	Veterinary for Animal Welfare in Zimbabwe
WAP	World Animal Protection
WTG	Welttierschutzgesellschaft e.V
WTS	Welttierschutzstiftung
WOAH	World Organization for Animal Health





    
The 6<sup>th</sup> Africa Animal Welfare Conference - Action 2022  
Theme: Animals, People and the Environment in a Rapidly Changing World  
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# Opening Session



## Preliminaries - Moderator



**Josiah Ojwang'**

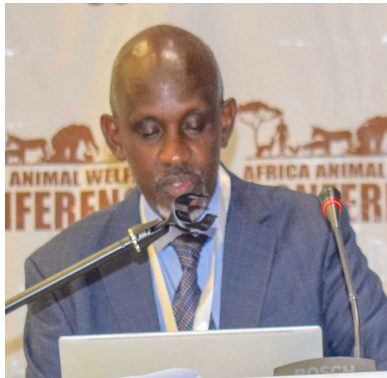
Ag Executive Director, Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW), Moderator

Mr. Ojwang set the pace of the conference by welcoming all the participants to Gaborone, Botswana, and to Africa, and also welcomed the online participants from across the globe as it was a hybrid conference.

He highlighted that the conference would cover a broad array of topics that would focus on interactions and interconnections of humans, animals, and the environment. He emphasized that it was an opportune time as it was held just before the UFCCC CoP 27 in Sharma El Sheikh, Egypt. This was due to the fact that the conference happened at a time when the impact of climate change was evidenced by the prevalent floods and drought. He stated that human beings have the responsibility to practice caution in how they interact with animals and the environment.

The conference was expected to open up discussions from presentations given by a team of experienced speakers from academia, government, those in practice, and civil society organizations from various sectors. Delegates were encouraged to network and to ensure that they gained a new outlook on animal welfare, a new commitment that humans needed to take on the environment, animals, and humanity.

## Opening statement



**Wachira Kariuki**

Policy and Public Affairs Director Africa network for Animal Welfare

Mr. Kariuki began by welcoming the delegates to the conference. He stated that the core belief is that animals should not suffer and that many of the animals suffer due to human action. He stated that human beings should instead nurture the symbiotic relationship that exists between the environment and animals.

He found it critical that the conference discussed how best to address the global changes that had taken place and that it should analyze how they had taken place. It was integral that the delegates included human health in the deliberations in order to meet the conference's vision, which was to bring together stakeholders in. It was integral that the delegates included human health

in the deliberations in order to meet the conference's vision, which was to bring together stakeholders in Africa and the world to discuss about animal welfare, the environment and sustainable development.

He emphasized that the conference needed to achieve a social, economic, environmental and humane discussions on sustainable development in Africa and make recommendations for policy to policy makers and legislators.

He reminded delegates that people could create a great impact when they came together, and highlighted an example where a decision was made to have animals recognized at the global environmental agenda at the Africa Animal Welfare Conference in 2019 in Addis Ababa. He noted that animal matters were not taken seriously by the policy makers from the United Nations perspectives, and as a result, civil society organizations took the initiative to advocate and lobby member states who moved a resolution at UNEA.

He took the opportunity to congratulate the African nations that sponsored and supported the resolution, which asked UNEP's Executive Director to write a report detailing the nexus between animal welfare, environment and sustainable development.

Wachira noted that AAWC focused on stimulating policy and legislation development, impacting knowledge, attitude change and skills in regards to animal welfare, environmental conservation and the achievement of sustainable development. He further stated that the 21st Century had moved at great speed and that the changes that had taken place were astronomical in regard to technology, infrastructure, science and development. The changes were both positive and negative and had affected the way humans live. Some of the specific changes included:

1. Infrastructural development
  2. Increased industrialization
  3. Changing patterns in food production and consumption
  4. Climate change
  5. New health concerns and emergence of the pandemics such as Covid-19
  6. Air, water and soil pollution
  7. Biodiversity loss
  8. Population increase, and the never-ending gap between the rich and the poor.
- These changes affected people, animals and the environment due to the interlink found in the three (3) elements.

He finally called upon the delegates to investigate how the changes impacted directly and indirectly, positively or negatively on animals, people and the environment, and how they contributed to climate change.



# Welcome Remarks



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## Prof. James Nkansah-Obrempong, Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW)

Prof. Nkansah-Obrempong began by welcoming all on behalf of Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW) to Gaborone, Botswana and virtually to the 6th African Animal Welfare Conference (AAWC). He explained that as a network organization, ANAW established the annual conference in 2017 to create a premier African platform for animal welfare stakeholders to address animal welfare-related issues concerning Africa. Further, the conference was designed to focus on the issues from different dimensions inclined towards enhancing progressive development of society through advocating for better human health and increased protection for the natural environment. ANAW strongly believed that animal welfare is a human responsibility at the individual level and is also a collective issue.

He mentioned that as a Pan-African animal welfare advocacy Civil Society Organization (CSO), ANAW worked through engaging like-minded partners such as other CSOs, governments, inter-governmental organizations, the private sector and local communities. Gradually, due to this consistency, he recognized the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and the Africa Union - International Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) which have teamed up with ANAW to become co-organizers and hosts of the continental conference.

Prof. Nkansah-Obrempong reiterated that the 2022 conference theme: “Animals, People and the Environment in a Rapidly Changing 21st Century” captured the immense aspiration of Africa as far as the value of animals vis-à-vis their welfare across the vast continent was concerned. He stated that in Africa, domestic and wild animals were a key part of the livelihood component in many families, and in almost each of the homesteads, an animal was kept. Animals made significant contributions to the livelihoods of most people in Africa and their value was steadily gaining interest and was finding its way into many conversations about development in Africa. This had enabled a growing consciousness about the interlink between people, animals and the environment, and their interaction. He stated that ANAW believes that animals should not



suffer and that everyone in Africa needed to have a basic understanding of animal welfare and engage in practices that support good care and minimize the suffering of animals. The Africa Animal Welfare Conference was based on the premise that animal welfare practice was the best way to reduce the suffering of animals.

He reminded the delegates that civil society organizations, irrespective of their mandate and jurisdiction, played an important role in promoting sustainable development in Africa. CSOs deserved recognition, goodwill, good faith, and cooperation in order to achieve their goals efficiently and work effectively. He gave an example that ANAW had attained most of its goals with the support of governments, inter-governmental organizations, the private sector and communities. He further stated that the conference was a testimony of CSO collaboration with other stakeholders. He stated that in its new Strategic Plan (2021 – 2025), ANAW aimed to build stronger and diverse animal welfare network of stakeholders across Africa to promote humane treatment of all animals.

He was confident that delegates would learn and gain numerous ideas from knowledge shared and lessons given by experts who would speak and present their papers in the areas of concern. He believed that they would also, gain from discussions and interventions from different experiences, expounding on the theme of the conference.





## United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Alexander Juras, Chief, Civil Society Unit (CSU)



**Alexander Juras**

Chief-Civil Society Unit, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Mr. Alexander Juras thanked the conference co-hosting partners ANAW and AU-IBAR, the sponsoring partners, UNDP and the Government of Botswana for their unremitting support and cooperation. He stated that the Africa Animal Welfare Conference had become an institution, and one of the few important international animal welfare and environmental meetings organized in Africa. He noted that it had attracted more attention from animal welfare professionals, environmental experts, non-governmental organizations and governments.

He mentioned that at the Fifth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) held in February and March 2022 in Nairobi paid attention to animal welfare. Governments from across the globe, under the leadership of African countries, adopted a resolution that would lead to investigation of the Animal Welfare, Environment and Sustainable Development Nexus, thus acknowledging the link between the three aspects. The resolution had created great international interest from different parts of the society, and noted that the Friends of the Resolution would meet to continue discussions on its implementation in time for the Sixth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly in 2024.

He then invited delegates to the UNEP session which was planned for the second day of the conference and would raise awareness about the work of the UNEP, UNEA and opportunities for Non-Governmental Organizations, experts and other organizations from Africa to engage.





## African Union - InterAfrican Bureau on Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) Dr. Hiver Boussini, Senior Animal Health Officer

Dr. Hiver Boussini presented a speech on behalf of Dr. Nick Nwankpa. He thanked the Government and the People of the Republic of Botswana for hosting the conference. He stated that the effective organization of the conference was a clear demonstration of the commitment and the interest that the Government of Botswana gave to animal resources and the environment for human well-being.

He stated that the theme of the conference aligned with the UNEA 5.2 Resolution on the Nexus between Animal Welfare, the Environment, and Sustainable Development, which was adopted in March 2022. It also aligned with Agenda 2063, the blueprint of African development in the next 50 years. It spoke to the interlinkages between sustainable economic growth, natural resource management, biodiversity conservation and the critical aim to have healthy humans, healthy animals and healthy ecosystems. The articulation of those principles was in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

He elucidated that driven by the intensification of animal production systems and its attendant animal welfare implications, animal welfare had increasingly become a barrier in international animal trade. This had elicited the need for policy consideration of animal welfare in animal resource development. AU-IBAR was therefore promoting improvement in animal welfare itself, as well as helping to change attitudes towards the concept of animal welfare. There was hence an urgent need to address Africa's animal welfare issues through policy, strategies and legal frameworks. Community education, awareness creation, and their participation in upholding animal welfare was necessary. These realities guided the organization when developing the Animal Welfare Strategy for Africa (AWSA), and established the African Platform for Animal Welfare (APAW).

Dr Boussini elaborated that AU-IBAR was cognizant of the fact that the integrity of the natural triad of Animal, Planet and People is the anchor of a natural and therefore sustainable future. The era they were in marks a time where nowhere they were able to better understand the science behind climate change, better assess its impacts, and better develop tools to address its causes and consequences. He noted that there were abundant evidence that the food systems had serious impact on the life experiences of animals and the environment, and that they contributed to climate change.

He hoped that the presenters and other discussants in the conference would make a case for the nexus of the collective welfare, through a systematic process. Towards a consensus, he expected the delegates to diligently dialogue over the conference recommendations at plenary and to propose conference resolutions that would steer Africa's animal resources to prosperity and for the prosperity of



the African Community. Through this approach, AU-IBAR anticipated that every Member State would undertake to play its role to enhance the wellbeing of Animals, Planet and People through the principles of One Health, One Welfare and Sustainable Development.

He informed the delegates that AU-IBAR had provided support to the IGAD/ICPALD and ECOWAS Regional Animal Health Centers to develop their regional animal welfare strategies and action plans for Eastern and Western Africa, respectively, in line with the continental framework. The IGAD Member States had initiated the implementation of their National Animal Welfare Strategies. Currently, he noted that AU-IBAR was assisting the Central and North African regions to develop their Regional Animal Welfare Frameworks. In the next phase, they would focus on the SADC Region. He indicated that AU-IBAR had provided technical and financial assistance to over forty (40) countries to modernize their national Veterinary Legislation/Animal Health ACTs/Bills, with the inclusion of Animal Welfare related issues as well as the establishment and operationalization of Regional Animal Welfare Networks, as the regional chapters of the APAW.

Dr Hiver highlighted that the Fifth Session of UNEA adopted the resolution on the Nexus between Animal Welfare, the Environment and Sustainable Development. The aim of the resolution was to place animal welfare at the centre stage of the Global Environment Agenda and Sustainable Development. He cited that one of the key outcomes of the conference would be a clear commitment by every African Union Member State and partners to support the implementation of the resolution. He reiterated that AU-IBAR would work relentlessly towards fostering partnerships and collaboration with partners promoting animal welfare in Africa, by providing leadership in the responsible and sustainable animal resources development through mainstreaming the animal welfare best practices across the continent.



# Animal Welfare, Environment and Sustainable Development: A Global Perspective

## Phillip Lymbery, Global Chief Executive, Compassion in World Farming (CIWF)



Mr. Lymbery thanked the organizers of the 6th Africa Animal Welfare Conference and to Member States present on the achievement of the Animal Welfare, Environment and Sustainable Development Nexus Resolution at the Fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly. He cited that the resolution was important because it highlighted animal welfare as a key component in addressing the growing environmental crises. It underscored how there was One Health, meaning that the wellbeing of people the world over relies on animal health and welfare and a thriving environment. He emphasized that embracing the nexus resolution was critical in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In his presentation, Philip painted a picture of how he sees the connection of people and animals in both natural environments and factory-farming settings. In a natural environment, he observed cattle roaming as they grazed in nature-friendly land that brought back biodiversity and provided more healthy, sustainable food, as they were kept in high welfare. In factory farming, he observed land being ploughed and as gulls followed the tractors in search for worms, they could find none. Later he noted that the fields planted with maize (corn) for feeding animals, the soil continued to be impoverished by chemical pesticides and artificial fertilizers used on crops and when it rained, the soil was washed into the river. This experience made him realize anew the link between intensive crop growing and the factory farming of animals. He further painted another picture of a feedlot he visited in Nebraska where hundreds of cattle and calves were standing in barren pens with no grass in sight and were all distressed.

This had become a global phenomenon and threatened the world's future. He also noted with concern that factory farming, be it of cattle, pigs or chickens, was no longer confined to western countries and the biggest cattle feedlots with 160,000 cattle standing in one place with no grass in sight is in Africa, not to feed Africans, but was geared toward export markets in China and Middle East.

He informed delegates that other forms of factory farming had spread to Africa and around the world which included keeping hens in cages so small that they could not spread their wings. The cages were often sold by European companies despite the

very same system being banned in the European Union. Pigs were also put in cages where they were unable to turn around for weeks or months at a time and are made to face the wall. He emphasized that factory farming was the biggest cause of animal suffering on the planet and a key driver in the climate, nature and health catastrophes facing humanity.

Mr Lymbery then delved into the climate change issue stating that it would hit developing countries and people on low incomes disproportionately hard. It would also affect animals, not only leading to extinction but also suffering caused by floodings, droughts and wildfire disasters like those seen in Australia, Pakistan and the Amazon. He recommended that a veritable 'three Rs' approach needs to be taken which include:

1. Regenerative farming
2. Reduction of animal-sourced foods
3. Rewilding of the soil

To be able to get to this point, it was recommended that transforming the food system for a livable future relied on reconnecting food production, animal welfare and nature through regenerative, agroecological farming combined with more balanced diets. He recommended that to get there fast, everyone needed to play their part: governments, civil society, business, finance and the United Nations working in partnership to transform the food system. He cited that embracing the animal welfare nexus was crucial for meeting the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Goals agenda, and that leadership is hugely welcome by the UN in recognizing this nexus between animal welfare, environment and sustainable development.

Mr Lymbery further recommended that the conference needed to build upon it with a new resolution that embraces the multiple benefits of properly addressing animal welfare at the heart of the nexus with sustainable development. One that clearly identifies the benefits to small-scale farmers and pastoralists, enhancing rural livelihoods, and providing decent work for all, including women and young people; one that recognized that high animal welfare in the food system can promote carbon sequestration, water conservation, restoration of biodiversity and soil health; one that acknowledges the wealth of knowledge already established in this field; and, one that saw animal sentience as a key element to addressing the pressing environmental emergencies facing humanity in a way that truly builds a sustainable future for our children and our children's children.

Philip closed his presentation by stressing that time was right for the UN to acknowledge animal sentience, meaning that animals feel pain, suffering and a sense of joy if we let them, as an essential part of addressing the environmental emergencies facing humanity.

## Southern African Development Community (SADC), SADC Secretariat, Dr Gaolathe Thobokwe



Dr Thobokwe opened with a short background of Southern African Development Community (SADC). He stated that SADC was a regional economic community that comprised of 16 member states, with the latest member being The Comoros. He mentioned that SADC is committed to regional integration, poverty eradication through economic development, peace and security.

He informed the conference that agriculture was at the center of its mission and that livestock was an important component. He further indicated that the region had 80 million cattle, 90 million small stock, 50 million pigs and half a billion chicken which feed about 400 million people in SADC member states. SADC hence tackled issues related to production, animal health, genetics, trade and animal welfare which are addressed through the Livestock Development

Programme (LDP) that implements the livestock component of the regional agriculture policy on Southern Africa. The development of the implementation and monitoring of the LDPs was done through the Livestock Committee. He further cited that this related to issues of animal welfare including compliance of standards, international guidelines, and international recommendations to make sure that as a region, they abided by them.

Dr Thobokwe informed delegates that they were in the process of reviewing the LDP Cycle 2017-2022. He admitted that as a region they could do better to improve animal welfare issues, and encouraged experts, stakeholders and other interested parties present at the conference, to get in touch with them in order to contribute to the next drafting of the LDP. This would ensure that all issues of animal welfare were sufficiently addressed and catered to.

In his concluding remarks, Dr Thobokwe was thankful for the conference and believed that with the proceedings and recommendations, the region would be guided on the direction to follow on animal welfare issues.

## Food and Agriculture Organization, Dr Rene Czudek, Botswana Country Representative

Dr Czudek began by welcoming the delegates to the conference. He expressed his joy that the conference was taking place in Botswana and thanked the government of Botswana for being the host. He then informed delegates that the implementation of the FAO mandate through its strategies ensured better production, nutrition and environment while leaving no one behind.

He then appreciated the platform presented to discuss, exchange experiences and knowledge both physically and virtually.

Dr Czudek noted that after reviewing the program and examining to topics to be discussed, he felt that a critical issue was missing. Elephant overpopulation in the northern part of the country had adversely affected animals, people and the environment and hoped there would be a discussion on the same. He was optimistic that the forum would be bold in its stance and position to come up with a resolution on how to humanely and ethically address that issue, otherwise if status quo remained, there would be nothing left.

He also informed delegates that human-wildlife conflict was a national issue that was spoken of at the highest level of government, such as during the 'State of The Nation' address by the president of the country. He noted with con-



cern that that farmers were suffering from the conflict and that the elephants were seen to be pests. He however recognized that elephants were an emblematic species and hoped that discussions would take place on how to sensitize the public based on research findings and scientific evidence and not based on emotions, politics and ideology. It was therefore his expectation that delegates would take time in their deliberations to share what the possible solutions were to address the issue for a well-balanced environment that allowed co-existence of people and animals.

He concluded by wishing the delegates fruitful deliberations and encouraged all to visit Northern Botswana to see the diverse wildlife.



# Update of the Animal Welfare, Environment and Sustainable Development

**Dr Zerubabel Tefera and Mr Josphat Ngonyo**

Dr Tefera welcomed delegates to the conference and informed them that he, and Mr Ngonyo, would bring to their attention the Animal Welfare, Environment and Sustainable Development Nexus Resolution. He introduced the resolution as a key milestone and a global document that belonged to all individuals from every nation. He then invited Mr Josphat Ngonyo to give a brief on the evolution of the resolution.

Mr. Ngonyo began by stating that the Animal Welfare, Environment and Sustainable Development Nexus Resolution arose from Africa after the 3rd Africa Animal Welfare Conference (AAWC) - Action 2019 that was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It sought to have animal welfare considered at the global environmental agenda through the United Nation's Environment Assembly (UNEA).

He then expressed his gratitude to the sponsoring member states - Ghana, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), South Sudan, Senegal and Pakistan-, under the leadership of Ghana and negotiated by Ethiopia with support of CSOs and African Union through AU-IBAR. In a joint effort, the Animal Welfare, Environment and Sustainable Development Nexus Resolution was adopted in March 2022 for implementation by UNEP.

Following the adoption, the proponent member states held a meeting with UNEP's Ecosystem Division and with UNEP's Executive Director on June 30, 2022. The meeting provided clarity on funding for the resolution implementation, which should come from the member state and not the civil society organizations. On September 9, 2022, an informal and open-ended Friends of the Resolution Working Group was established and had 20 member countries from Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe.

In actualizing the member states' strategy with the support from civil society organizations, member states had conversations with FAO, WHO, WOAHA, and World Bank regarding funding and implementation of resolution. It was expected that those organizations would participate in the Friends of the Resolution Workshop scheduled for November 3, 2022, where over 30 member states representatives were also expected to deliberate on the way forward on the resolution implementation. He thanked everyone for the role they played in the process and concluded by stating his famous mantra: 'We are better together'.

Dr Tefera continued with the presentation informing delegates that animal welfare had been absent from the inter-government policy making platform. After the 2019 conference, the intent of tabling a resolution at UNEA was brought to Nairobi by the seven sponsoring member states. This was to bring issues of animal welfare to the UN platform, and hence needed to package



it in a way that would be understood. The relationship of animal welfare and environment was key and hence 'environment' had to be brought in as the second pillar. He also informed delegates that there were competing school of thoughts animal welfare, those that were inclined to animal rights and those that believed in animal welfare. He stated that a balance needed to be made and hence the introduction of sustainable development as a third pillar. That was the triangle that is known as the nexus. He cited that the member states requested UNEP to prepare a Nexus report understanding the relationship amongst the three variables. Dr Tefera further indicated that the issues to be addressed through the implementation of the resolution were cross-cutting, and hence the need for UNEP to work together with pertinent actors. He emphasized that the resolution specifically requested UNEP to work in collaboration with the tripartite alliance: FAO, WOAHA and WHO, and the One Health High-Level Expert Panel as they were working to enhance the One Health approach. It was further noted that UNEP had joined the alliance making it the quadripartite alliance. Finally, the resolution requested UNEP to consult with other partners and stakeholders, where relevant, in preparation of the report. He summarized that based on the recommendations, it was expected that more actions, programs and projects would follow.

He then emphasized that the most important thing was for every organization present in the conference to join hands to assist UNEP and the relevant stakeholders mentioned in the resolution to deliver on the initiative. He noted that the conference has a vital role of advocacy. For instance, academia needed to come up with rigorous studies and research papers on the interlinkages, while the roles of CSOs and governments needed to be understood. Having the resolution was a milestone while the end result was not just the report, but people needed to understand that issues pertaining to animal welfare were important and should not be neglected anymore. He urged delegates to continue championing the issues of animal welfare.

He concluded by informing the conference that after the adoption, member states felt the need to build a coalition to push for this agenda and keep the momentum going hence the creation of the Friends of the Resolution Working Group. He encouraged all that implementation should be done together through the Friends of the Resolution.

Dr Tefera then invited the custodian of the resolution, UNEP to inform delegates on the progress of its implementation.

## Progress of the Implementation of the Resolution

### Mr Abdelkader Bensada, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)



Mr Bensada began by expressing his gratitude for the opportunity and UNEP's collaboration in the conference as a partner in co-hosting the event. He then informed delegates that fourteen (14) resolutions had been approved during the Fifth Session of UNEA, and that the Animal Welfare, Environment and Sustainable Development Nexus Resolution was the first resolution to be approved. He stated that the resolution contains three (3) operational objectives:

1. A request to UNEP's Executive Director to produce a report subject to the availability of human and financial resources. In close collaboration with FAO, WHO, WOAHA as well as the One Health High Level Expert Panel to work on and analyze the nexus between animal welfare, the environment and sustainable development and include key partners and stakeholders to collaborate in its implementation.
2. A call for the Executive Director to submit the report for peer review by member states.
3. To report the finding of the report to the 6th Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA).

Mr Bensada then relayed what had been done so far in the process to the delegates as follows:

- UNEP did not have human or financial resources to implement the resolution.
- Animal welfare was not on the mandate of UNEP, specifically domestic animals. It was recognized that the member states had asked UNEP to work with intergovernmental agencies including FAO, WHO, and WOAHA. This was an ongoing process.
- The draft implementation plan and budget had been prepared and was shared internally in the UNEP's Ecosystem Division.
- They had secured seed funding internally from UNEP's

Environment Fund. He stated that it would be used in the initial scoping that would begin in early 2023. This would enable UNEP and its partners to have a refined budget and a fundraising strategy. There was hope that the scoping report would be submitted at the Sixth Session of UNEA (UNEA 6) and would include a peer review.

He also informed the delegates that UNEP had held meetings and consultations with partners such as the animal welfare organizations and Member States where they discussed the implementation of the resolution, funding and resource mobilization.

He asserted that a high-level meeting was organized between the UNEP Executive Director, H.E. Ambassador Dampety Asare of Ghana and Dr Zerubabel Tefera of Ethiopia and Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW) and discussed the modalities for possible funding for the member states.

Further, UNEP took part in a meeting of The Friends of the Resolution Working Group which had been formed to accelerate the implementation of the resolution led by Ghana and Ethiopia with participation of Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), South Sudan, Senegal and Pakistan, among others. Mr. Bensada hoped that there would be an opportunity to discuss how the implementation process would be accelerated including how they would work together to mobilize the required resources for the full implementation of the resolution.

Mr. Bensada also mentioned that UNEP had held discussions at the senior management meeting with the tripartite alliance and has had follow ups with WOAHA. He stated that WOAHA was ready to assist with the implementation of the resolution once the resources are available. He also stated that a more limited scoping report had been planned for 2023 that would be available in time for UNEA 6 and would include peer review, while a full report would be expected during the Seventh Session of UNEA (UNEA 7). UNEP hoped for additional resources that would enable them to be more inclusive of regional stakeholders. He guaranteed that a scoping report, a peer review, a desk review and a fundraising strategy would be ready by UNEA 6. Mr. Bensada concluded by stating that he was happy to discuss in detail on the resolution during the conference. While closing that session, Dr Tefera stated that it was work in progress and that they had achieved great strides. He then reminded the delegates that Member States came to know about issues of animal welfare because of the conference. He challenged all to continue the advocacy so that issues of animal welfare could gain its rightful place, not only in the UN, but also in the world. He thanked all for the opportunity that subjected member states to the issue and to contribute as much as they could to champion animal welfare.



# Special Address

H.E. Ambassador Duke Gobopang Lefhoko, High Commissioner of Botswana to Kenya



H.E. Ambassador Duke Gobopang expressed his gratitude to be able to join the 6th edition of Africa Animal Welfare Conference – Action 2022

He was happy to learn that the conference, brought together animal welfare, wildlife and environmental conservation NGOs, the UN team, government officials and government affiliated institutions, academics, researchers, media, policy makers, legal practitioners, community members, interest and stakeholder groups and development practitioners every year to discuss, explain and discern current issues affecting the sector. He mentioned that in such a forum, issues were usually presented, and plans were solidified in resolutions that were enacted over the following year.

He also stated that the conference brought to the fore the fact that animal welfare is everyone's responsibility because it is about what people do to animals and how they keep their animals. It sought to bring to light whether people were conscious about how they caused suffering to animals and if people who interacted with animals were able to tell when an animal was suffering.

He then recalled the theme, 'Animals, People and the Environment in a Rapidly Changing 21st Century' and stated that it was gratifying because Africa had a rich presence of animals, both domestic and wild, that were living with the people spread across all communities within the continent. He added that animals made a significant contribution to the livelihoods of most people in Africa and their value was steadily gaining interest and was finding its way into many conversations about development in Africa. This had also helped in a very significant way by the growing consciousness about the interlink between people, animals and the environment, and the reality of a shared destiny in

the web of interaction.

H.E. Ambassador Duke Gobopang relayed that the conference sought to complement the work of African Union - Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) which spearheaded efforts to develop the Animal Welfare Strategy for Africa (AWSA) as a way of consolidating synergy towards better animal welfare in Africa. In this regard, governments and civil societies in Africa were at various stages of domesticating the implementation AWSA, coordinated through the Africa Platform for Ani-

mal Welfare (APAW). He mentioned that the conference would be an interesting platform to assess the successes and failures of the implementation process.

He elucidated that it was important that delegates identified key challenges occasioned by the rapid changes and how they impact animals, people and the environment, and possible mitigation measures. He emphasized that it would be critically important for the participants to review and commit to necessary action plans that needed to be taken towards enhancing animal welfare practice in the continent. He asserted that it would be vital to have a discourse on enhanced support for animal welfare and environmental policies from government institutions and other key stakeholders in Africa and see them actualized. He then highlighted that Botswana hosts a significant population of animals. Elephants in Botswana did not only belong to Botswana and that it was the sole prerogative of everyone to conserve the animals. He emphasized that community members were conservationists and were regulated by traditions through practices such as the totem system where clan animals were protected and respected. In addition, community elders shared a lot on conservation, and it was irritating for community members in African countries to be lectured on what the proper conservation practices should be adopted. He further urged African countries to continuously get together to deal with those issues as they shared their resources. He also informed the conference that beef in the country was from cattle reared under the free-range system.

He concluded by welcoming everyone again to Botswana and wished productive deliberations that would birth conference resolutions which would in essence determine the next conference flight path.

# Keynote Speech and Official Opening

**Thabang Leslie Botshoma, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Support Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Republic of Botswana**



Mr. Botshoma welcomed delegates to Gaborone, Botswana and invited all to enjoy every moment. He thanked the organizers for choosing Botswana as a venue to host the most impactful assembly; the 6th Africa Animal Welfare Conference – Action 2022. Speaking for the government of Botswana, he pledged to give their best to ensure the conference would be a success.

He explained that in Africa, both domestic and wild animals were a key part of the livelihood component in families, and in almost each of the homesteads, an animal was to be found. It had been observed that animals made significant contribution to the livelihoods of most people in Africa and their value was steadily gaining interest and finding its way into many conversations about development in Africa. These conversations had helped in a significant way, by growing consciousness about the nexus between people, animals and the environment, and the reality of a shared destiny in this web of interaction.

He cited that he was informed that the founders of the conference held a firm belief that animals were sentient beings and should never suffer at the hands of people, as often-times happens, and they should enjoy the Five Freedoms. He acknowledged the Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare to be Freedom from Hunger and Thirst, Freedom from Pain, Injury and Disease, Freedom to Express Natural Behavior, Freedom from Discomfort, and Freedom from Fear and Distress.

He stated that it was to be appreciated that the Africa Animal Welfare Conference had steadily gained ground as a premier continental forum for discussion of animal welfare, and with it the related contexts of health, sustainable

development and environmental conservation in Africa. The theme, “Animals, People and the Environment in a Rapidly Changing 21st Century” was both captivating and timely. Timely because in the 21st Century, they were witnessing rapid and sometimes phenomenal changes globally, and Africa was part of this change, that had to be addressed then.

He asserted that they were cognizant that these changes affected people, animals and the environment due to the interlink of the three, and hence there was a call to look at modest and effective means for attaining the delicate balance of nature that was fundamental for the optimum health of the planet.

He mentioned that many African nations including Botswana were experiencing a massive growth in terms of infrastructural investments, and that the continent was on the verge of experiencing its own industrial revolution. Consequently, this economic reawakening was coming with a good measure of challenges of pressure on land, and animals were almost always, made to give way for industrial projects as their habitats were disrupted or altered.

Mr. Botshoma stated that the projects came with the effects on the environment where trees and vegetation were cleared and even wetlands disrupted in the desire to achieve development. It was up to people from different corners of the globe to ensure that they undertook to do all that they could to ensure that development was attained with minimal harm to animals and the environment, and hence purpose to achieve the ideal balance of nature. The changes in food production systems and consumption patterns had cascaded into ecological paradigm shifts that call for humanity to re-evaluate and refocus their actions to ensure sustainable life on the planet.

He proposed that the conference should also discuss the pros and cons of the inclination towards adopting factory farming systems, which had been shown to compromise animal welfare. An increase in the use of chemicals in industrial agriculture and general food production led to increased hazards to human, animal and environmental health.

He concluded by stating that Botswana, as a friend of the conference, through the Ministry of Agriculture and other relevant ministries and departments committed to do all that it was policy-wise possible and to undertake any necessary actions to accommodate enhanced growth without compromising the integrity of the environment and in maintaining good welfare of animals.



# Session 1A:

## Welfare of Farm and Working Animals



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## Opening Statement by Session Moderator, Dr. Mwenda Mbaka



As an introduction to the topic of discussion, Dr. Mbaka invited participants to define the term animal welfare from the perspective that, it was the provision for practices for the handling of animals and in the handling of the environment they were in, that could influence the wellbeing of those animals. An animal was said to be in a good state of welfare and could perform naturally and optimally including delivering its benefits to humanity if, as backed by scientific evidence, it was healthy, comfortable, well nourished, safe, able to express innate behavior and, it was not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, death, and diseases.

In terms of welfare for farm animals, he mentioned that the focus was on the provisions and practices in breeding, housing, feeding, handling, or harvesting; and working of the farm animals including the provision of the practices of manipulating the environmental experiences that preserve a good state of welfare considering that some of them would be used for food, production of fur, and other needs.

He further pointed out that from a scientific perspective, the importance of a good state of animal welfare was allowing the animals to efficiently perform the functions that could contribute to human being's food security, health, well-being, social security, and the psychological state of being. On the contrary, poor animal welfare could contribute to food insecurity, poor health either due to malnutrition or zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance, psychological stress, poverty, social insecurity and anxiety. All this depended on the practices as human beings relate to their animals in terms of what they did or what they failed to do.

He closed his introductory remarks by inviting the speakers who were stakeholders in the poultry and donkey industries.

## Welfare Assessment of Working Donkeys: The Case of Wadi Salih District, Central Darfur State, Sudan, Prof. Abdelkareem Abdallah- Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources

In his presentation, Prof. Abdelkareem Abdallah alluded to the acronym that donkeys were the BMWs of poor communities in Africa, meaning, B - Breeding, M - Meat and Milk, and W - Working. He mentioned that Sudan has three main donkey breeds which are used for different purposes such as transporting water and building materials uses and are distributed throughout the country. Donkeys suffered from various challenges and welfare issues associated with tough working conditions, poor living conditions, poor management, and a lack of veterinary services which lead to issues affecting their physical health and mental health. He also highlighted that donkeys faced social issues because the Sudanese considered donkeys to be stupid animals leading to discrimination from other domestic animals. He then mentioned that the welfare of donkeys in South Sudan was far behind as there was no information on donkey welfare in the Darfur region. This formed the basis of the study that he carried out with his colleagues to evaluate the welfare of working donkeys in the Wadi Salih province which is part of Darfur region.

The study population included 150 donkeys: 74 male and 76 female. Owners of the donkeys were interviewed while donkeys were assessed when they were brought for veterinary services at specific clinics. The assessment done looked at the physical well-being, behavioral expressions, and the treatment of the donkeys by their owners.

The results of the study were as follows: 30% of the assessed donkeys showed signs of poor body conditions while 70% showed sound bodily conditions. Of the 30% of donkeys presenting wounds and scars, 67% of those scars



and wounds were on their back, 17% on their hind quarters, and 16% on their necks. 40% of the donkeys showed signs of approximation, 14% depression, and 2% aggressiveness. In relation to the donkey's treatment, the owners reported using different methods to accelerate donkeys and make them work harder or faster. 70% of the owners used sticks to beat the donkeys for this purpose while 30% used their hands. Another aspect of their welfare that was identified was the number of hours that the donkeys worked in between breaks. 62% responded that their donkeys worked for more than 3 hours between jobs while 14% worked 2-3 hours between jobs. A very small percentage worked less than 2 hours between jobs. He further stated that the study assessed the availability of water and feed for the donkeys and found that 48-50%



of owners provided free access to feed and water for the donkeys. The conclusion of the study was that donkeys work very hard; owners mistreat donkeys by beating them; donkeys have restricted access to feed and water; and, they usually get depressed. Therefore, there was need to create awareness and educate donkey owners in order to treat their animals with better care. He concluded his presentation by informing delegates that there was minimal information on donkey welfare in Sudan and this was among the first studies carried out to form a baseline for future studies and interventions for the animals.

### **CAGE FREE CAMPAIGNS IN AFRICA: PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENTS TO DATE Ms. Aurelia Adhiambo - Africa Coordinator, Open Wing Alliance**



Ms. Adhiambo introduced the Open Wing Alliance, under the Humane League, as a global coalition of animal welfare organizations that have been working together since 2016 with a common goal to end the abuse of chickens worldwide by bringing similar groups from around the world together to share knowledge, expertise, and strategies. The alliance was started initially as a means of expanding the outreach and working with animal protection groups with a similar aim of freeing laying hens from cages to achieve a cage-free world. It had grown to more than 80 organizations across more than 60 countries and 6 continents.

What began as a desire to free laying hens from cages around the world had become a reality and this is a truly dedicated coalition of animal welfarists working together on the goal of ending cages and improving the lives of chickens.

In Africa, she noted that there were 21 member organizations, and most notably Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW), the conference host. She then showed images depicting the differences between battery cages, enriched cages, barn systems, and free-range systems which are used in the rearing of chickens, and pointed out that OWA was working towards ending the use of both battery cages and enriched cages systems. She noted that even though the enriched cages are bigger than battery cages and are furnished with perches and other features, they still restrict the natural behavior of hens to the detriment of their welfare. The coalition wants the agricultural industry to move to the barn systems or free range where hens could move around with

fewer restrictions, live naturally, and practice their normal behavior. The cage-free requirement asks companies to make a public policy to transition their supply away from battery cages and enriched cages to the barn, free range, or organic systems. These are the minimum requirements backed by numerous studies and extensive research that have been carried out on the natural behavior of hens which have shown that unlike cats, dogs, and all animal species, hens have a natural desire and strong instinct to, but not limited to, perching, dust bathing, spreading their wings and nesting. They require space to express this natural behavior, and just like any other animals including humans, when their natural behavior is restricted, they experience stress and frustrations which could be detrimental to their psychological and physiological well-being. Thus, when given the choice, hens would be motivated to access extra space and would avoid spaces with a height of fewer than 46 centimeters which exceeds the heights of battery cages. Studies have also shown that well-being improvement from enriched cages is minimal, and hens are still cramped, movement-restricted, denied access to natural light, and prone to disease.

She expressed that cage-free, free-range, and organic systems or companies going 100% vegan may be ideal in terms of animal welfare, but it was not realistic at all considering that companies exist to make money, and many companies offset profits over the suffering of animals. Therefore, if animal welfare is likely to negatively impact a company's profit margins, there is a need to provide an incentive to do it and moving from cage to cage-free systems is one of the easiest welfare improvements for producers to make. By working to free hens from cages, a vast number of animals would be alleviated from suffering through the smallest changes by the companies allowing for quick and effective instigation of improved animal welfare practices in multi-national corporations. Thankfully, due to a surge in companies making cage-free commitments, the demand for cage-free eggs has increased and the cost is decreasing. Statistically, laying hens suffer the most harm among all the animals farmed for food. Globally the number of laying hens stands at approximately 7.5 billion compared to 1 billion farmed cattle, 1 billion sheep, and 700 million pigs. The only animal farmed for food in higher numbers than hens are fish, and these cannot be accurately measured as fish are counted by weight and not individ-

ually. That is a greater welfare concern that OWA started working on in its welfare work.

Aurelia further explained that the alliance recognizes the present limits despite the desire to save all animals from suffering throughout the supply chain. While using the principle of effective altruism which uses evidence and reasoning to determine the most effective way to benefit others, OWA devised a way of working that would allow them to make a positive impact on as many animals as possible with the available resources and started working with laying hens. Globally, the development of cage-free work has made great progress in the past few years but there are still improvements to be made with the global population of cage-free laying hens being about 850 million, which is just 11% of the global population leaving about 6 billion chickens still living in cages.

She noted that though corporates in Africa were responding to the demands, there was still some progress to be made. So far, some companies had started recognizing the essence of welfare for laying hens and were making cage-free commitments such as the multinational retail chain, Majid al Futtaim known as Carrefour which operates in Kenya, Uganda, and parts of North Africa that made a cage-free commitment to source only from cage-free pro-

duction systems by 2030. To effectively make a long-lasting tangible change, she alluded to the tactic of targeting the largest and most influential food companies to produce commitments and policies to phase out the cruelest practices in their supply chains creating change for millions of hens in a short amount of time.

Globally, Aurelia reported that OWA had been able to obtain over 2,000 commitments from companies that had promised to phase out cage systems. In Africa, several companies had made commitments to phase out cages, including KFC, City Lodge Hotel and Burger King. Other member organizations in other continents were actively working in their individual countries targeting companies and engaging with them to sign up for cage-free commitments. She cited that OWA was still growing and still launching more cage-free campaigns than ever, therefore signaling more positive hope for the billions of hens in cages. In conclusion, she noted that the global cage-free momentum was accelerating at a rapid pace and 89% of hens in cages still needed intervention so there was need to keep working, keep asking the right questions, keep engaging these corporates and multinationals, and keep them accountable to ensure that they practiced proper animal welfare standards by only sourcing cage-free eggs.

### **DONKEY FARMING - MYTHS OR MONEY? Dr Emma Preston - The Donkey Sanctuary**

Speaking on the challenges and implications of farming donkeys and posing the question whether they are just myths or there is money to be made, she noted that donkey farming has existed for thousands of years in certain parts of the world, including in certain European countries such as Italy, as well as in China. Donkey milk is favored for its composition and could be used as an alternative to cow's milk for dairy allergy sufferers and for human infants; donkey meat is a delicacy in some cultures; while salami and other products made from donkey milk like soap and cheese could fetch high price tags. Donkey hides are another valuable by-product and there are purpose-built farms in China producing donkeys specifically for their skins. These farms have evolved from extensive rural small-scale farms to large more intensive breeding herds, and it is not uncommon to find farms of 3,000 donkeys and up to 6,000-10,000 head herds in China. She noted that other countries may be considering similar endeavors to produce donkeys intensively and in large farms to supply the production of hides. But farming donkeys in this way is fraught with issues for the donkeys' welfare, health, productivity, and economic viability.

Dr Preston then referenced a report written by The Donkey Sanctuary highlighting some of the key issues around trying to farm donkeys intensively and what this may mean for their economic viability. The shift to intensive production of donkeys in recent years has been influenced by the huge growth in popularity and a high price tag for ejiao, made from collagen extracted from the donkeys' skin and used commonly as an ingredient in traditional Chinese medicine.

Ejiao is used on its own or may be added to a wide variety of products with high-quality ejiao fetching high prices. It is a popular gift among the middle class in China and maintains a cultural significance. The price of donkey hides in China increased exponentially in a decade between 2005 and 2015.

She then informed delegates that an estimated 4.8 million skins were needed to produce 5,600 tons of ejiao, with 1.8 million of this number being sourced domestically, while about 3 million came from a global supply via the skin trade. This showed that Ejiao companies in China were struggling to keep up with demand and, bringing forth the concern surrounding the depletion of the donkey population associated with the skin trade. This was a great concern since donkeys are heavily relied upon by many communities and have hidden and often under-appreciated value as working equines providing traction, transport, and propping up the livelihood of millions of people worldwide. The donkey skin trade had decimated the donkey population in Africa with donkeys being stolen and sold from communities at an unsustainable rate, meaning they could not produce fawns to repopulate. There is also suffering at each stage of the donkey skin trade as donkeys are transported or herded miles on foot in cramped conditions, often going without water and food for long periods and then undergoing brutal conditions at slaughter, which is linked to implications of illegal wildlife trade.

Emma cited that intensive farming has been posed as an



answer to the dwindling population so that ejiao continued to be manufactured. However, she noted that farms could be used as a smoke screen continuing to fuel the skin trade. Populations of donkeys would still deplete rapidly, and these farms would not be able to produce donkeys at the rate required to keep up with the demand. Further, she noted that donkeys were likely to suffer hugely while being kept under intensive conditions, citing an example of China where the intensification of donkeys has been encouraged, only to be abandoned in some cases due to losses that make farms unsustainable. Intensive donkey farms in China are not able to keep up with the five million hide demand and this was likely to be no different elsewhere in the world, meaning farming would not protect against the skin trade. She recognized the term 'donkey farming' represented a varied spectrum in different types of systems and the report explores the issues related to the intensive farming of donkeys where the focus was not necessarily on a fixed number of animals, although high numbers are likely, but rather on the type of intensive farming of donkeys to maximize production while minimizing costs, that is, keeping donkeys in high stocking densities while using practices geared towards efficiency.

She continued by digging deeper into the report which explored some of the issues associated with the intensive farming of donkeys. Firstly, the implication for the health and welfare of donkeys as a species and what farming meant to them. Donkeys have unique physical and behavioral requirements which would be difficult to satisfy under intensive systems meaning that their health and welfare would be compromised, in that:

- They are a species that has evolved to live in small groups of closely bonded individuals forming strong emotional bonds to close companions and may not thrive in large herds of high stocking density where they may be housed with unsuitable companions or are separated from their companions. Considering the necessary reorganization of groups based on age or stage of production, they would be subjected to stressful handling practices or long-distance transport.

Donkeys naturally graze and browse over long periods spending more than 16 hours a day foraging on low-calorie-dense fibrous material. Efficient feeding routines such as twice daily feeding would not satisfy donkeys' behavioral needs and could lead to low body conditions scores if they were unable to consume enough calorie material to maintain their weight. This stress could be a primary cause of a serious physical metabolic condition in donkeys known as hyperlipaemia which has associated mortality rates of up to 80%.

Secondly, she reported that inappropriate management of donkeys often caused by a lack of understanding of the species could lead to health problems as seen with large donkey farms in China. Research carried out by Dani et.al found a major lack of preventative healthcare including vaccinations, dental care, and foot trimming leading to infectious diseases and high incidences of dental disease amongst farmed donkeys. High-level morbidity in the herd led to a detrimental

effect on productivity.

Thirdly, she noted that a major issue when it comes to the viability of farming was the time it takes for donkeys to reach maturity as each day presents costs in terms of feed, housing, and labor that would then be deducted from profits made when the animal is sold or slaughtered. In terms of reproduction parameters, research is lacking but donkeys are known to have relatively long gestational periods, compared to other livestock species, ranging between 353-371 days which is approximately 11.5-12.5 months. Conception rates also vary between different breeding methods such as artificial insemination that was used on donkeys in China with variable results, while abortion rates affect reproductive performance as well as mortalities.

In cases of donkey breeding herds, a female donkey doesn't reach sexual maturity until they are around 3 years old and would take another 11-12 months to give birth to a fowl considering there are no issues with fertility which may further delay this time. Therefore, a donkey would be over 3 years of age before they start contributing to the growth of a farm and it may take up to 2 years for a donkey to reach a mature enough size to be slaughtered for its hide. This would be a significant length of time before any returns on investment could be made. Research carried out by Benet and Fedora at the University of Reading used a system dynamics modeling to estimate the time it would likely take for donkey farms to build a steady herd to produce a target number of hides for the ejiao industry. The modeling used informed assumptions taken from literature and suggested that it would likely take at least 10-15 years if not much longer to build up herd sizes to meet the target demand for hides for ejiao, while assuming excellent welfare and low mortality rates. Should the conditions be worse than excellent, the donkey production rate would be expected to be much slower. The same modeling used with smaller numbers produced an analysis that predicted that a herd of 1,000 female donkeys would produce 854 slaughter-way donkeys per year after a 5-year period. This productivity fairly remained constant and would likely to change if illness resulted in a loss of productivity. She also cited a business case study from Tanzania that proposed an investment of over 3.2 million US dollars over a period of 4 years to grow a donkey herd from 900 to 1719, an increase of only 819 for a very large investment cost. Case studies like these demonstrated the significant amount of money and time necessary to achieve even small increases in donkey herd size.

Lastly, another significant issue she highlighted from the report was that donkeys are known for displaying very subtle and nonspecific signs of illnesses and this stoicism made it challenging to diagnose them with infectious diseases. For instance:

- Donkeys farmed intensively were likely to be stressed which would lead to altered immune states, subsequently increasing susceptibility to infections.

- The risk of disease would intensify with new



populations of donkeys joining the herds, while movement between groups would present an increased risk of disease transmission.

- Further, serious equine infectious diseases can wipe through entire herds, with associated losses to production through high morbidity and mortality rates, such as an outbreak of influenza that led to mortality rates of 25% of a herd of farmed donkeys.
- Infectious diseases could also lead to a reduction in fertility and infectious agents such as salmonella could cause abortion or early embryonic losses. High mortality rates of newborn donkey foals in intensive systems are thought to seriously affect the efficiency of donkey breeding.

While concluding her presentation, Dr Preston informed the conference that the farming report highlighted some of the issues that may be associated with farming donkeys, which demonstrated that intensive farming would not have quick returns on investments, and there are likely to be huge implications on the health and welfare of donkeys in the intensive farming systems that would ultimately affect productivity and profitability.



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## WELFARE OF ANIMALS IN LIVESTOCK POUNDS IN SOUTH AFRICA Dr. Bryce Marock - NSPCA, South Africa

Dr. Bryce Marock began by explaining that livestock pounds are facilities used to house animals temporarily for various reasons such as abandoned, lost, or animals in various dispute cases. He noted that many would agree that regardless of the circumstances, the animals in these pounds deserve comfort and care. Unfortunately, this is an overlooked welfare topic that is hardly discussed except when people complain. He informed the delegates that the National Council of SPCAs in South Africa is the only animal welfare organization with an act of parliament and enforces more than 90% of animal welfare legislation. However, only about 10% of investigations lead to prosecutions as most cases are resolved through education, warnings, or advice. He pointed out that the South African NSPCA has 6 specialized units that travel throughout the country while there are about 90 local SPCAs throughout the country that also operate as law enforcement bodies. All inspectors are trained by the NSPCA and authorized by the local judge to operate.

Dr Marock cited that South Africa has an Animal Protection Act that protects all animals. In addition, he said that a national pounds' Act was being developed which would mainly focus on the protection and proper care of animals housed in pounds as they are temporarily unowned and are in the care of pound management. The facilities across the country were in bad state, and while others try to have good facilities, many lack the necessary training and experience to have all the required items, thus regular inspections are carried out to bring change through education or prosecution. A big challenge facing the issue of welfare in pounds is that discussions are held at high levels and in boardrooms, but no action is taken until complaints come from tourists, or diseases emanate from a poorly maintained facility. There are pounds where you would find animals with open wounds filled with maggots and no evidence of any wound-cleaning spray while having stayed in the pound for days. He highlighted that Veterinary care should be available to attend to such cases but in the absence of it, euthanasia should be looked at as an option for treating such animals. On a positive note, he expressed that after inspections, warnings and follow-ups, some facilities improve and put-up proper shelters to protect the animals from wind, rain, and direct sunlight, including providing clean wa-



ter troughs and feeding trays that are easily accessible.

In consideration of the welfare of animals in the pounds, he presented a checklist used to confirm the presence of all the necessary facilities and their conditions at the pounds. These checklists are used to compare different facilities, help to find shortcomings between inspection periods to achieve a baseline standard, and to have concise records of how the animals are cared for. As animals from different sources mix and move out, those records, which include past and future movement of animals assist with disease control measures, and prove useful later considering that in some cases, there is no owner to give any declaration. He emphasized that while constructing livestock pounds, there are conditions considered as the bare minimum to ensure the good welfare of the animals. These include provision of water to animals, have appropriate and sufficient feed, have suitable shelter, be treated against parasites, receive prompt veterinary treatment if sick or injured, an off-loading ramp must be used, written records must be kept of all the animals, and, facilities must be clean and well maintained.

In conclusion, Dr. Bryce noted that keeping a tidy, hygienic, humane facility with good records is unobjectionable to anybody who cared about animal welfare or disease control. He emphasized that there has to be political will for this to be achieved.



# Session 1B:

## Technology, Education, Innovation and Research



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## Livestock Emotion: Vocalization and Positive Welfare Dr Alan McElligot, City University of Hong Kong



Dr McElligot began by stating that one could easily tell emotions with humans. There were possibilities of animals to have their own agency. He highlighted the Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare in reference to nutrition, environment, health, behavior and the mental state of animals. He cited that animal welfare should not only be evaluated by the absence of negative states but also by the presence of “Good Life” or “Positive Experiences” enjoyed by animals. He brought out the importance of Positive Welfare, that is, providing animals with opportunities to make their own decisions (agency), or to have positive social relationships.

### Goat Emotions: Expression and Perception

He explained that there were four treatments of different emotional Arousal and Valence:

1. Control (eating hay – neutral)
2. Food Anticipation (high arousal/positive)
3. Food Frustration (low arousal/negative)
4. Isolation (high arousal/negative)

He went on to highlight 23 different physiological, behavioral and vocal parameters that were measured. The key result was that pitch of vocalizations were more stable in positive treatments versus negative treatments.

### Chicken Vocalizations, Welfare and Artificial Intelligence

Dr McElligot deliberated that through a study undertaken on broiler chicken vocalizations and welfare through recordings using 12 commercial sheds with 25,000 to 27,000 chickens per shed, it was determined that in early life, output of distress calls predicts low weight gain and high mortality, not only into the next day, but by end of cycle (Day 32).

An algorithm was developed to automatically identify chicken distress calls. As a result, 97% of distress calls, among other farm sounds could be correctly identified.

Dr McElligot concluded that positive animal welfare was vital for livestock health, and that productivity and vocalizations could be used for monitoring health and welfare of livestock, especially in large groups.

## Building Human Capacity in Research Animal Sciences, Welfare and Ethics Across Africa: Pan-African Network for Laboratory Animal Science And Ethics (PAN-LASE)

### HRH Dr Josiah Kantiyok, MNIM, FICSP, FCVSN, fnimn. Chief of Zikpak (Fantswam) Chiefdom/Executive Director, JOHAN VET NETWORK



Dr Kantiyok began by stating that great strides and development in almost every area of humanity over the years had been driven by research. He mentioned that the greatest impact resulted from scientific/biomedical research with the use of animals. The animals are used in scientific (medical and Veterinary) research to:

- Investigate the progression of known disease and new infections.
- Test new drugs and vaccines.
- Test new surgical techniques.
- Carry out toxicity studies.
- Cosmetic research to test for allergic reaction.

The benefits from the use of animals in research have among others led to development of new vaccines and medicines, development of successful transplant procedures and major medical advances. Animal welfare have become a critical and important subject in the use of animals in research not only for the sustainability and livability of animals, but for the quality of research. He stated that the development of animal welfare strategies/principles for animals used in research became necessary to ensure humane treatment of animals. He relayed that in the 1950s while working with University Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW), William Russell and Rex Burch

developed the concept of the 3Rs- Replacement, Reduction and Refinement, contained in their seminar book Principle of Humane Experimental Techniques.

The success of the 3Rs principle and other welfare strategy in animal research is facilitated by the establishment of Institutional Animal Care Use Committee (IACUC) or Animal Ethics Committee (AEC). The IACUC or AEC is the body responsible for approving and monitoring the research in line with rules, guidelines and laws governing animal use in research.

Dr Kantiyok mentioned that policies and legislations are made based on standards set. Animal welfare standards setting is done by the OIE as agreed by member countries. The Office International des Epizooties (OIE) was created through international agreement signed on January 25th, 1924, and was later named World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) in May 2003 and recently adopted for use. OIE was established to achieve world where the welfare of animals is respected, promoted and advanced in ways that complement the pursuit of animal health, human well-being, socio-economic development and environmental sustainability.

He informed the conference that in Africa, animals are commonly used for scientific and medical purposes (research), in a search of solutions to challenges in the continent. These include prevention and treatment of diseases, food safety and security, climate change and nature conservation. There are none or limited opportunities available for education and training in animal welfare and laboratory animal science (LAS) in many African countries. The governance framework for the care and use of animals for research purposes are variable. Some African countries have legislations or standards while others broadly lack laws, standard or guidelines for care and use of animals for experiments.

Dr Kantiyok then introduced PAN-LASE, an organization that was formally established on 3rd November 2017 as part of the programme of the International Conference jointly convened between SAALAS and ICLAS in Stellenbosch, South Africa. Theme of the conference, “One Africa, One World”, signified Unity among African countries; Unity between Africa and the global community; collaboration towards the common good; and, harmonization of standards. PAN-LASE in collaborative partnership with local associations, institutions, regulatory bodies and animal welfare organizations co-created and co-delivered educational ac-

tivities in Seven African countries namely Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, Algeria, South Africa, Tunisia and Uganda.

He then mentioned that the lack of ethical review processes and structure in many parts of Africa had affected good practice in LAS, animal welfare and ethics. To rectify the above, PAN-LASE brought together 32 African experts from 12 African Countries in a workshop at the Ecole Nationale de medicine Vet. De sidi Thabet, Tunisia, in 2019. Delegates shared experiences and expertise from across Africa to co-create the guidelines based on the following considerations:

- Existing legal frameworks, standards and policies relating to care and use of animals for scientific purpose in Africa.
- The cultural, religious, political and socio-economic diversity in Africa.
- References to relevant aspects of international recommendations.

Some of the successes of PAN-LASE included successfully creating and delivering a portfolio of educational opportunities in seven African Countries. In those countries there is wider community of colleagues equipped with knowledge, expertise, and educational resources to deliver these interventions in their respective countries and networks. However, he noted that there were gaps in reaching out to other countries across the continent. In order to fill the gaps and meet the objectives of PAN-LASE, Dr Kantiyok proposed the way forward as:

- Expanding provision such as with stakeholders, regions, and life-long learning.
- Entrench ethical review processes.
- Co-creation of sustainable, predominantly online or blended Africa -centric education, training, and life-long learning opportunities.
- Broaden stakeholder base and partnerships such as with AU-IBAR
- Building national, regional, and Pan-Africa communities of practice.
- Approval, implementation and partnership with relevant professional bodies, statutory regulatory bodies, institutions, and government agencies.
- Design in sustainability and growth.
- Formalization of networks and associations.



# Session 2:

## ANIMAL WELFARE- A COMPREHENSIVE PERSPECTIVE







Wolf began his by acknowledging the adopted resolution by member states at UNEA 5.2 ( UNEP/EA.5/Res.1) which recognizes the nexus between animal welfare, environment and sustainable development, stating that this is naturally a multi-sectoral effort that needed all the different stakeholders to work together to make the goal of the resolution a reality.

He then focused on religious institutions for the strategic reason that they hold enormous influence and power in the world.

To give an idea of the kind of impact these institutions could have, he presented 2015 statistics showing 84% of the global population identified with a specific religion which is projected to rise to 87.5% by 2060. Another study done by UNEP in 2020 showed that religious institutions own 8% of habitable land, 50% of all schools, and 10% of financial institutions, with the example of the Roman Catholic Church which owns 3 times more land worldwide than the entire U.S. national park system combined.

He elaborated that policies are looked at in general as short-term strategic and practical goals with set timelines to be achieved. However, he noted that there is a value-driven element to policies. For example, when the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) advocate for the eradication of poverty, provision of quality education, or gender equality by 2030, they were essentially envisioning what a just or humane society should look like. This brings out their similarities to religious institutions which are fundamentally value-driven institutions that articulate a particular vision and practical goals focusing on a common good. Even though people tend to think of religious values and laws as having been handed down by specific authority figures, in practice, religious norms have always been interpreted, adopted, and implemented by processes of consent in accordance with the needs of

communities.

In his presentation, he highlighted that those religious institutions could contribute towards animals' welfare and the environment conservation through preservation of biodiversity as they own huge lands that are mostly untouched. He cited an examples of sacred groves, such as the Osug-Osugbo Grove in Nigeria that was restored and set as a UNESCO World Heritage Site; church forests owned by monasteries such as the Taragadem Monastery of the Ethiopian Orthodox church; and, cemeteries where many animals and plants live. He noted that it was not merely an accident that so many different religious institutions were choosing to preserve those wild habitats for animals and plants but rather because animal and wilderness protection is deeply rooted in their value systems. For instance, women from the Bishnoi community, a Hindu religious movement are famous for rescuing and raising orphaned wild animals and even sacrificing their lives to save wild animals and plants from hunters and loggers. Another example are environmental activists including those in indigenous communities who are unfortunately often subject to violent retaliation, who share a motivation driven by spiritual traditions of nature being sacred and worth fighting for. He then elaborated various religious teachings on animals and the environment which included regulations on animal welfare such as how to treat animals and acceptable ways of raising and slaughtering animals for food.

Wolf then pointed out the potential value of harnessing the expertise in terms of values, as well as tactics honed over centuries and millennia within religious traditions to inform modern laws and policies. These have been recognized by the UN itself through initiatives such as the Faith for Earth initiative through UNEP, Faith + Food coalition through U.N Food Systems Summit, including Faith and Biodiversity UN Coordination Group.

He also referred to an example of pope Francis speaking to an inter-faith gathering at the Vatican where he showed that religious leaders teach, not only by influencing goals at the top of society and helping to draft policies, but also communicating values that are consistent with environmental protection, animal welfare and sustainability to their congregations and general society. This could also be done at a local level by establishing SDG clubs in religiously affiliated schools. Traditional projects and institutions such as sacred groves and animal sanctuaries could be maintained and be expanded in their impact by connecting them to modern resources and networks, or showcasing



from a scientific perspective exactly what they could contribute to animal welfare and biodiversity.

He further noted that traditional programs such as food programs feeding the poor or the general public for free are traditionally plant-based in many religions such as the Seventh Day Adventists, Hare Krishna, and other religious institutions. Regardless of the denomination that is feeding people, this could be used as an opportunity to showcase lifestyles and food choices that are healthy, sustainable, humane, and good for people, animals, and the planet.

Despite all possible contributions religions could make to animals and environmental sustainability, he mentioned that there may not always be a perfect alignment, and pointed out several challenges being faced. First, religious institutions are not always in agreement with policy goals whether for human social causes, animals, or the environment, making different institutions in denominations of the same religion sometimes taking opposite views on certain issues. This diversity of views within traditions exists as religions are not monoliths. From a perspective of advocacy for either animals, human social causes, or the environment, he mentioned the importance of building connections with experts and leaders in different faith communities who may be advocating for internal reforms such as of practices that have historically been harmful, or working within their traditions to advocate for different interpretations of scriptures and theology. He recommended further reading by different religious leaders

and scholars who have authored books with interpretations that are friendly to animal welfare. Other challenges faced may include logistical factors such as funding for religiously affiliated institutions, especially in countries where taxpayers' funding is restricted to sectarian purposes.

Wolf noted that despite the challenges mentioned, there was optimism for great progress and achievement by aligning strategically with religious groups. The impediment in modern secular law and policy is that the concept of the natural world or beings outside the human species having any intrinsic value is still new and incorporating the concepts of rights of nature, rights for nonhuman persons, and even the basic animal welfare principles could be very challenging. Also from a spiritual point of view, the concept of all beings having some intrinsic value is quite ancient. This could be conceptualized in various ways such as all living beings are creations of the same divine figure and humans were tasked with the specific role of stewarding the natural world, or that humans and all other living beings are part of one cycle of life of birth-life-death-and rebirth or even natural phenomena being in themselves spiritual beings. Through all these different concepts, there is this shared view of the world as sacred and worth protecting and acknowledging. Therefore working together with spiritual traditions could help achieve a better world for people, animals, and the environment.

### **The Role of National Museums in Promoting Animal Welfare**

**Esther N. Kioko (PhD), Principal research scientist and Head, Zoology Department, National Museums of Kenya**

Dr Kioko began by giving a background of National Museums of Kenya (NMK which was started in 1910 and established as a State Corporation under Museums/Heritage Act 2006. NMK aimed to be a global leader in Heritage Research and Management, with a mission of promoting conservation and sustainable utilization of national heritage through generation, documentation and dissemination of research and collection management knowledge, information and innovations.

She explained that the Zoological Department at the National Museums of Kenya undertook different programs including collection management, ecological research and education, and capacity building. She stated that the collection-based research was diverse and includes collection in the mammalogy, the invertebrate and the ichthyology collections.

Dr Kioko informed delegates that museum specimens of threatened and endangered species supported the IUCN Red List Database. She gave examples of The African savanna elephant (*Loxodonta Africana*) and the Golden-Rumped Elephant Shrew (*Rhynchocyon Chrysopygus*).

She stated that the museum undertook educational activities and that their audience number in the hundreds of millions. The Museum collections and exhibits played a major role in educating and inspiring the broad public. She further cited that the connection between museum audiences, collections and expertise forms the foundation of a critical science infrastructure requiring useful, accessible, and visible data and the transfer of expert knowledge to current and future generations. Education services organized by the museum include scientific expos, cultural expos, clubs such as younger researchers and short courses.

Dr Kioko concluded by explaining the challenges that the museum face that include:

Museums remain poorly supported and largely disconnected from other animal/ human health initiatives.

Standards/best practices for many Museums as primary biological infrastructure still not sufficient.

Most of Museum specimen data is still locked up in paper labels but for effective and efficient access, it needs to be freely available.

Most museums have focused on voucher specimens with limited tissue sample collections.

Scientists, policy makers and many others – are not generally aware of the immense resources of Museum collections and how they could be of benefit to animal welfare & biodiversity in general.

Little use of the education opportunities at museums by agencies.

Nicola started by introducing Global Animal Welfare (GAW) which was founded in 2019 and focused on animals in wildlife sanctuaries and animal rescue centers. She stated that the organization promoted animal welfare through consultations and monitoring as well as to increase the potential for release and ensure that animals in captivity have optimal care.

She acknowledged the unprecedented times due to Covid-19 pandemic, climate change, and wildlife trade, causing wildlife to seek refuge in sanctuaries and rescue centers all over the world. This negatively impacted organizations, animal rescue centers, and wildlife sanctuaries in terms of space and inadequate financial resources since before the pandemic, most centers relied on international funding and volunteering. This led to the institutions finding sustainable ways to operate and rely on international intervention.

Nicola noted that there were many different types of facilities around the world that identified as sanctuaries and rescue centers yet there were diverse differences between them. She cited the definition of a sanctuary as per the Global Federation for Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS), as any facility offering a temporary or permanent safe haven to animals in need while meeting the principles of a true sanctuary; providing excellent and humane care for animals in a non-exploitative environment; and having ethical policies regarding tours and visitors, exhibition, commercial trade; and, where they acquire, breed or dispose.

She then informed delegates that in Africa there were many different facilities that are described as sanctuaries or rescue centers which had wildlife that had a traumatic past such as being displaced, being caught up in the wildlife trade, or their natural habitats have been destroyed. She emphasized that it was paramount to address their needs putting in consideration factors such as where they were rescued from and their species-specific needs and individual needs.

She highlighted the work of GAW which focused on empowerment and offered structured training and capacity building for sanctuary staff who were in the frontline leading to improved animal care. Ultimately ensuring appropriate long-term care for animals destined for a

captivity, whilst those where there is the opportunity, maximizing that chance for a release.

GAW also offered bespoke structured training as every facility, sanctuary, center, country, or region has its own specific needs which may range from considering their funding and available resources, to species specific needs or behavioral issues. The training was offered with long-term development in mind while working closely with people.

She also reported that pandemic changed GAW's outlook to involve virtual workshops and webinars while considering realistic aspects of facilitation and support to strike a balance with information shared though physical meetings were much more preferred. In the process of facilitating workshops and working with different facilities, there were opportunities to interact and share different ideas with regional experts and facilitators hence enabling connections with a wider range of the population.

She further explained that GAW took a balanced approach involving both a practical and a theoretical view in its work which involved management, caregivers, veterinarians, and people who manage the facilities to ensure all aspects of animal care are always covered, which may include sharing ideas between facilities, building upon what knowledge was there and also not being shy to share information on what does not work that would help improve things by learning from the lessons.

They also took the problem-solving approach which involves taking feedback on issues encountered such as checking behavioral issues like aggression, health problems or looking at ways to promote natural behavior through training and addressing specific needs identified. She noted that these solutions were available in situ, although they may not be identified easily as everyone was usually busy with their daily routines and did not necessarily take time in their day to stop and think about what the problems could be and the possible solutions.

She concluded by informing delegates that GAW believed in supporting rescuing and rehabilitation of as many wildlife as possible and takes a compassion-based learning approach that encourages engagement in animal welfare practices. This is by empowering those in the frontline which is done holistically by taking all stakeholders into account as there would be unique issues and generic aspects to what different facilities are facing anywhere in the world.



## ANIMAL WELFARE FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF WOMEN IN AGRI-BUSINESS, Yunike Phi-i - Zambia Chapter of African Women in Animal Resources Farming and Agribusiness Network

Yunike began by introducing herself as a smallholder livestock farmer-based Lusaka, Zambia, and an advocate for youth and women in livestock and other Agri-related businesses. She highlighted that AWAREFAN aimed at promoting entrepreneur agribusiness as a means for job and wealth creation for Africa's women and youth. It also provided essential nutrition for children, supporting their physical, mental, and developmental needs through various opportunities by working with women.

She noted that livestock remained a crucial investment in Africa and reported that the composition of AWAREFAN members were smallholder farmers located in various developing regions across Africa who understood the value and importance they associate with their animals. These included provision of food for families, tilling of land done by cattle, the droppings used for manure in the fields, transport of goods, oxen are hired out to fellow smallholder farmers, income from selling them, and for others like donkeys, they are a means of getting to the hospital in rural areas.

She spoke of the importance of animal welfare to AWAREFAN as being an avenue to economic empowerment and gender equality, as women had started owning certain kinds of livestock such as cattle compared to a couple of years back when most women only had access to small ruminants such as chickens and rabbits. In trying to ensure that most women in Africa understood the science of animal welfare and are compliant in ensuring the animals they keep were well taken care of, she emphasized on the need for 'sensitization

and empowerment. This would include access to expertise and resources that would enhance the welfare of the animals such as availability of extension officers who would educate the community on how best to look after the animals.

Yunike noted that women were major laborers behind the animal resources sector in Africa. However, there was a huge capacity gap that ought to be addressed to stop their marginalization especially in effectively participating in trade particularly under the African continental free trade area. There was hence need for special programs to support women including in funding which should translate to economy of scale that would give them access to quality services and inputs at low bulk discounts that the large-scale commercial farmers get on veterinary access, vaccines, and extension services.

She then called on the African governments, through AU-IBAR and other partners such as CSOs to support organized common interests' groups or cooperatives financially and to push the animal welfare agenda in the policy environment in Africa. This would then translate to a culture of good animal welfare practices leading to improved productivity of animals and ultimately food security, food safety, and improved livelihoods. She concluded by calling on the global community stop exporting agriculture systems and industrialization technologies that were obsolete in developed countries and had a huge footprint in terms of climate change to Africa.



## ANIMAL MALNUTRITION AS A WELFARE ISSUE IN BOTSWANA, Prof. Othusitse Madibe—a - Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN)

Prof Madibela started his presentation by noting that nutrition and feeding are routinely regarded as management practices in farms to promote optimal animal performance. These include a cue to reproduction, fostering fetal growth, promoting milk production, promoting the growth of offspring, and maintenance of adult animals. In poultry, it includes egg quality, sperm production quality, and growth. Due to the desire to increase productivity and income, farmers pay attention to feeding standards. However, where drought is endemic like in Botswana, the occurrence of undernutrition is rampant, and sometimes, negligence to care for livestock and pets, leading to malnutrition.

He then elaborated that limited nutrient impact animals at all stages of the reproduction cycle and growth parameters. Undernutrition results in stunted growth of animals that are still growing and of the fetus in cases of maternal malnutrition. In severe cases, the stunting cannot be offset by compensatory growth. In cases of pregnant and nursing dams, undernutrition results in severe loss of body reserve and negative energy balance which could result in abortion in goats or recumbency in cows, especially for animals in their last trimester of pregnancy. Normally, pregnant cattle mobilize body reserve amid limited nutrition to support fetal growth (resource portioning to reproduction) and in the process become weaker and eventually recumbent. Other factors that may lead to recumbency include a lack of specific nutrients like minerals such as Copper (Cu) and Selenium (Se).

Considering whether animals should be mated when there is evidence of limited nutrition, he noted that animals breed naturally in the wild and this uncontrolled breeding is also witnessed under communal unfenced grazing. This is an aspect that should be thought through as the challenge to access limited resources continues.

Prof Madibela highlighted that causes of mortality in Botswana were not reported making it hard to conclude the factors affecting animals. However, malnutrition was suspected to be a major factor as animals become weak, falling, and collapsing. He noted that sensitization by the animal welfare inspectors on the existing laws is important to teach farmers the procedures to follow in the care of their animals and educate them on the legal consequences as well. Further, he reported that in Botswana, animals are seen as live banks and there is a great likelihood of farmers being reluctant to euthanasia as a treatment option while keeping the hope that the animals would recover. He gave the example of a large dairy production farm that had about



20,000 animals and was under pressure to produce, and in the process neglected the young heifers within the herd causing their death. This led to the prosecution of the farm managers.

In conclusion, he noted that during drought seasons, there is a shortage of water which creates undesirable welfare issues as animals may get trapped in the mud of drying up lakes and ponds. He pointed out the need for communities and the government to help in such situations. He recommended that when there are limited grazing areas, neighbors and communities should probably mobilize each other, and help to provide feed for the livestock for farmers under communal grazing, or alternatively, other methods such as culling could be adapted by the farmers as a way of controlling the herd size during the onset of drought or seasons of a scarcity of resources. Other recommendations offered were to have the universities streamline animal welfare topics in the courses being offered and, strengthen the Botswana welfare act which was outdated and may be out of touch with the current issues being faced.





Dr Ssuna started his presentation by indicating that (Welttierschutzgesellschaft e.V.) WTG and Welttierschutzstiftung (WTS) used to receive inquiries from people concerned about the welfare of animals in the different projects being operated within Africa by international organizations and their partners. The question of how animals given to communities were being treated and whether their welfare was considered during the project design, implementation, and after, came up many times. This led WTS to online research and in consultation with various partners, a paper was produced three years ago in Germany.

In January 2021, desktop research focusing on the economical, educational and cultural issues was carried out with the aim of understanding animal welfare in development setting. This was followed by an online survey which involved different program managers, those donating animals to people to get them out of poverty, researchers involving animals and many other categories, where a gap in animal welfare was identified. On-the-ground research was then done and the results were similar to the earlier ones, which brought out the need to include animal welfare issues in projects when issuing corporation agreements to ensure that they were sustainable, and that they could achieve the impacts they desired the most in

those communities.

Dr Ssuna informed delegated that the goal for WTS was that at least in the next three (3) years, all international NGOs working in animal welfare would adopt the guidelines in their practice to propagate good welfare practices. He went on to outline a breakdown of the governance structure for the institutionalization of the guidelines, and the major areas of concern as follows:

1. A steering group made up of a set of advisors and several task forces as they become necessary. The steering groups would be composed of NGOs that are operating within the regions, for example East Africa, with the role of facilitating regional and global collaborations within those international NGOs; and provide clear direction on what needed to be done.
2. The advisory committee would be composed of a set of advisors who would identify specific areas that needed action as far as their work with their partners was concerned. They would set the discussion rolling and help in securing funds needed to support the implementation of animal welfare work in those NGOs. The membership would have major donors and agencies that support the NGOs carrying out the cooperation work.
3. The taskforces would be formed depending on the task at hand, for example, NGOs working with animals in different sectors such as working animals, companion animals and research. The task force would then have representatives from these NGOs depending on the category of their work.

He further informed the conference that the guiding principles used when developing the guidelines were based on the five animal welfare freedoms. From these, the areas of action that emerged clearly as animal welfare issues included training, husbandry, drainage and waste disposal, provision of mechanisms to handle diseases, transportation of animals, research, policy and legislation, communication and advocacy, monitoring and evaluation and resource mobilization.

In conclusion to his presentation, he requested participants representing different NGOs in the region to give their feedback and contribution regarding the proposed guidelines for amendment, revisions and approval by the last day of the conference.

**ONE WELFARE: The interconnection between animal welfare, human wellbeing and the environment**

Dr Pinillos began by citing that One Welfare describes the interrelationships between animal welfare, human wellbeing and the physical and social environment. It helps professionals understand and recognize the interconnections between their work with humans, animals, environment and wider society, and highlights that impact of animal welfare work and policies that go beyond helping animals, and helps to stop suffering more widely, reaching humans and society.

She then informed delegates about one of the projects implemented by One Welfare which she termed as the One Welfare Phoenix. The project facilitated the exchange, publication and dissemination, of information, experience and best practice in the area of animal and human abuse and neglect, including, where available the connections to the environment. This covers companion animals, working animals, farm animals and wildlife and stray animals. She highlighted the key outcome as development of a global free access guidance for veterinary professionals, medical professionals, social services professionals and the public.

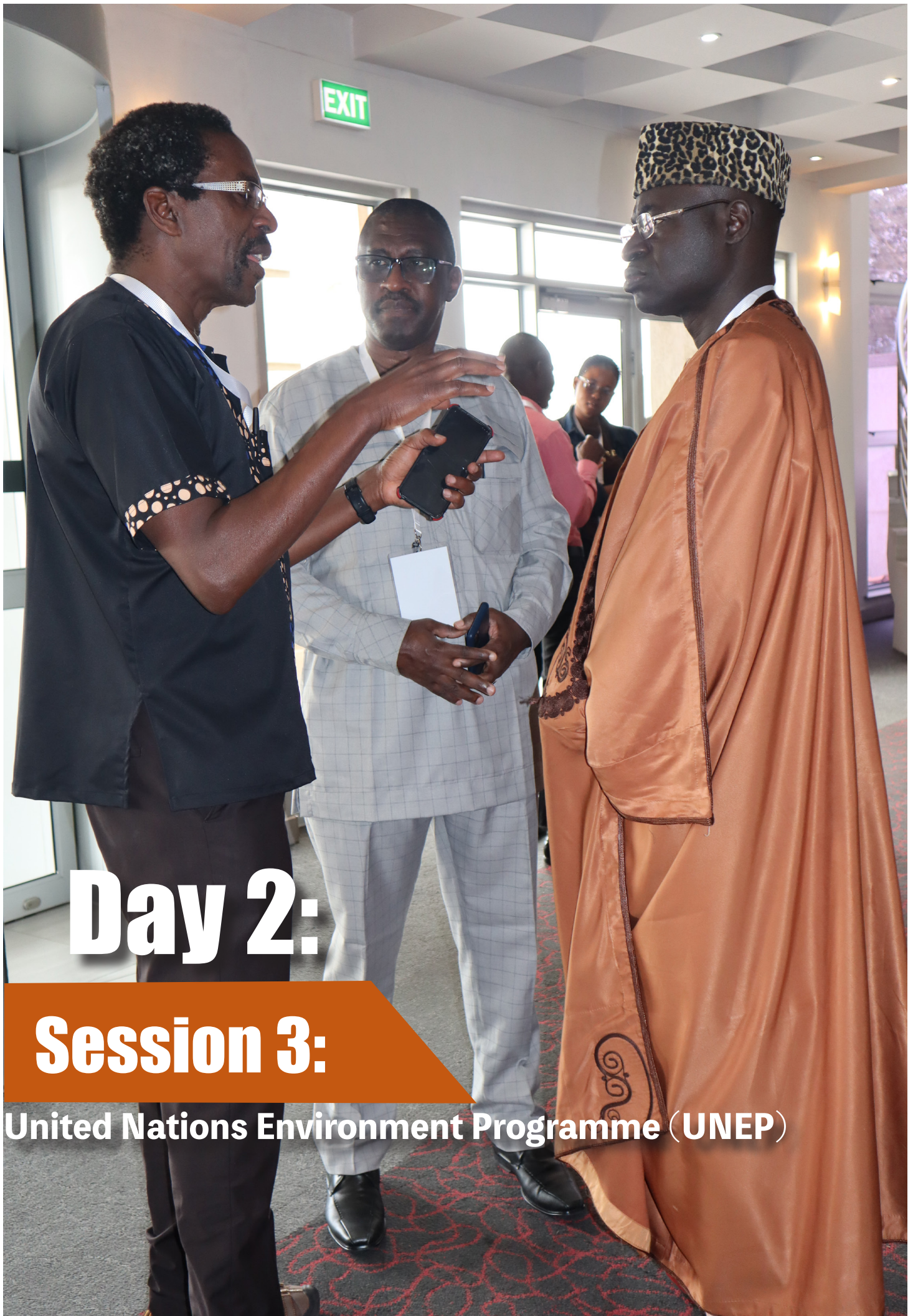
Rebeca concluded by underscoring that everyone must do everything possible to encourage collaborations on 'One Health, One Welfare' between different professionals and sectors to maximize social benefits. The triple planetary crisis must be tackled holistically, recognizing the interconnections between animals, people, and the environment and implementing a 'One Health, One Welfare' approach.

**DVM: Training the Animal Doctor – A documentary film, Nick Jukes, InterNICHE, United Kingdom**

Mr Jukes introduced the conference to a documentary film that he and his team worked on. The insightful film presented an orientation to work done to provide alternatives to the use of animals in laboratories and thoughts by experts who have used and continue to use it. The film can be accessed in the link below: <https://youtu.be/seh2CmbL-1U>







**Day 2:**

**Session 3:**

**United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**



## Introduction To UNEP, Abdelkader Bensada

In his presentation, he briefly introduced UNEP's history, mandate, mission, role in the wider UN system, the UNEP's secretariat, its oversight, and role vis a vis the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). He mentioned that UNEP was established in 1972 following the Stockholm Conference and in 2012 at the Rio @20 Conference, UNEP's mandate was strengthened, as was the governance of UNEP, going from a 58 Member State Governing Council to universal membership of 193 Member States through the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA).

Earlier in the year (2022), UNEP had an opportunity to take stock of achievements, and to look forward during UNEP's 50th birthday and held the UNEA Special Session also called UNEP@50. The Political Declaration from the meeting further strengthened UNEP's mandate, and the Member States and other partners acknowledged and appreciated UNEP's contribution over the decades speaking to the important work that lies ahead and UNEP's role in it.

He then gave a summary of UNEP's mandate as leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system, and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment. Regarding UNEP's mission ("how" UNEP works), he highlighted it as follows: "To provide leadership and encourage partnerships in caring for the environment by informing, enabling and inspiring nations and people to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations". He emphasized that it was about both caring for the environment and at the same time improving the lives of people, without compromising the lives of future generations.

Some examples of how UNEP informs, enables, and inspires nations and people to improve their lives without compromising future generations include UNEP's important role in science policy, convening power, environmental governance, its role in the UN system, capacity building, facilitating provision of tools and technologies, promoting partnerships, raising awareness about environmental challenges and solutions, the support to South-South and triangular cooperation.

Mr. Bensada further informed delegates that UNEP is governed at the highest level by UNEA and supported by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPRs). However, being a subsidiary body of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), UNEA can also request UNGA to take decisions on its behalf concerning UNEP. UNEP also must present its program of work and budget to UNGA via the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), and the Commit-



tee on Programme Coordination (CPC) for the purposes of receiving funding from the UN's regular budget.

He went further and shared the UNEP's Secretariat structure led by the Executive Director, supported by a Deputy and the Executive Office. Its program delivery is led by seven divisions supported by six (6) regional offices, which also represent the Executive Director in their respective regions. To enhance UNEP's work in key areas including in the delivery of the Medium-Term Strategy, UNEP has a chief scientist, and will soon have a chief economist and chief digital information officer.

The New York liaison office supports engagement with the main secretariat and UNGA. The Governance Affairs office serves as a secretariat to the Governing Bodies and leads the engagement with civil society actors. UNEP also has an independent Evaluation Office that reports to the Executive Director for administration purposes but exercises independent oversight of program. The latest addition is the secretariat for the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for Plastic Pollution.

In conclusion, he mentioned that UNEP supports the negotiation and implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements which are a very important element in establishing and delivering on international commitments for the environment. UNEP hosts and administers 15 convention secretariats that cover a wide range of regional and global issues including hazardous chemicals and waste, biodiversity, oceans, migratory species and rehabilitation of the ozone layer. Most of them report to the Deputy Executive Director, except for the secretariat of the Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Secretariat of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol who report directly to the Executive Director.



## Working with UNEP, Isaiah Otieno

Mr. Otieno's presentation focused on Major Groups and Stakeholders (MGS) engagement with UNEP. He stated that MGS is a term that Member States agreed to refer to the civil societies and other stakeholders that engage with UNEP, and that their seeking for attention or engagement with UNEP was their right. This meant that they could attend UNEP meetings as observers. This is part of decisions that were made by the Member States as per Rule 70 of the rules of the procedures arrived at in Rio, Brazil, and outlined in "the future we want", and the Governing Council decision.

He then listed the nine (9) Major Groups and Stakeholders of UNEP which are: Women, Children and Youth, Indigenous Peoples and their communities, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Local Authorities, Businesses and Industry, Workers and Trade Unions, Scientific and Technological Community, and Farmers. He noted that NGOs were the largest Major Group because any organization that fit in with the other eight categories is usually registered as an NGO. He also pointed out that the private sector is one of the biggest players in solving the environmental problems and could not be secluded. Further, he noted that once a group got accredited, it could have access to the portal, access unedited working documents, and take part in the global Major Groups and Stakeholder Forums. Another example of major groups' engagement is a resolution that was discussed at the beginning of the year which was pushed majorly by civil society.

Mr. Otieno informed the conference that the Global Major Groups and Stakeholder Forums (GMGSF) are meetings that happen just before United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and help civil society groups to prepare statements and coordinate on how they would engage during UNEA sessions. During the actual assembly sessions, decisions are usually already made, and most contributions to the decisions happen during the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR) meetings.

Regarding the engagements with MGS, he noted that there were about 1000 accredited organizations which made it difficult to communicate with all of them daily. Therefore, the accredited organizations elect two (2) representatives to the Major Group Facilitating Committee (MGFC). UNEP communicates with them on daily or monthly basis, who then communicate with the larger group. In addition, he noted that there were regional facilitators in the six regions where UNEP works who also organize themselves by electing two (2) members that communicate with UNEP, and then in turn communicate with the rest of the group.

He further explained the three levels of engagement and participation of MGS after getting accredited. The first level is agenda-setting such as the current opportunity for Major Groups to influence UNEA's theme and what will be discussed in the next UNEA meeting. The second level



is decision making/shaping. An example would be during regional meetings such as AMCEN in Africa during which the Major Groups could prepare statements and communicate their thoughts to member states. Considering that the organizations work together and have numerous interactions with different experts, he noted that they could be in a position to provide good content to Member States for consideration. As opposed to the combative nature civil society were known of in the past, they are currently working towards creating and influencing positive change for the environment. The final level of engagement is implementation, where projects are implemented, for example after a resolution is passed.

Isaiah reiterated that the participation of MGS UNEP meetings was not a favor but a right, and that in every meeting, nine (9) seats are usually allocated representatives from the nine (9) major groups, who read an agreed upon statements on behalf of the groups they represent to Member States. The other members could then follow the meetings online. He then informed the conference that a handbook was being developed to help in navigating and understanding how UNEP works given its complexities. He also mentioned UNEP was organizing a GMGSF which is an important meeting whose input influences the decisions made during the UNEA.

In conclusion, he gave statistics and regional distribution of accreditations, showing 799 total accreditations distributed as follows: Africa, 21%; Asia and the Pacific, 15%; Europe, 34%; Latin America and the Caribbeans, 5%; North America, 21%; and West Asia, 4%. Of all the accredited groups, 75% constitute NGOs.

In a later session, UNEP held a session with organizations that were interested in being part of the Major Groups and Stakeholders (MGS) and were able to give an overview of the current groups and work done. Activities and upcoming events were outlined. The representatives were able to ask questions and give feedback to their thought on the discussions.

**The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)  
Alexander Juras, Chief, Civil Society Unit (CSU)**



Mr. Juras opened the session by acquainting delegates to UNEA citing that it was established after Rio+20 in 2012 and has a universal membership. It is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda. The main mandates and function of the Assembly included providing overarching policy guidance, defining policy responses to emerging environmental challenges, undertaking policy review, dialogue and exchange of experiences, setting the strategic guidance on the future direction of UNEP, organizing multi-stakeholder dialogue sessions, and fostering partnerships for achieving environmental goals through resources mobilization.

He outlined the session, structure and the agenda of United Nations Environment Assembly – UNEA. UNEA is held every two years for a period of five-days, as per UNEA resolution 2/22 and held during the last week of February as per UNEA resolution 3/2. He explained that the UNEA Bureau is made up of ten (10) members - a President; eight (8) Vice-Presidents; and a Rapporteur. They are elected at the final meeting of a session and members hold office until their successors are elected. Members are also eligible for re-election. The replacement of a Bureau member is governed by rule 19 of the Rules of Procedure of United Nations Envi-

ronment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme. The bureau oversees preparations of UNEA and support in the general conduct of business of UNEA, while assembly approves the provisional agenda ahead of a session and adopts the agenda at the start of the session. Mr. Juras then informed the conference that UNEA is chaired by the UNEA President in support of members of the UNEA Bureau. He also gave an overview of the sessions that lead up to and prepare for the decisions that take place in the Assembly that include meetings held by Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPRs), Open-Ended CPR Meetings and the Annual Subcommittee Meetings. He cited that the CPR is chaired and run by the CPR Bureau. Further, every session of UNEA has a theme that is usually agreed upon by the UNEA Bureau based on consultations and provide a framework for political debate. The assembly constitutes of opening segment, national statements, leadership dialogues, multi-stakeholder dialogue, high-level segment, closing segment and committee of the whole.

Regarding the non-state actors, Alexander stated that Major Groups and Stakeholders/Civil Society Engagement in UNEA meetings involve representatives of UNEP accredited non-governmental organizations who may participate in all public meetings of UNEA and its subsidiary organs. They also have the right to make oral and written interventions, hold Global Major Groups and Stakeholder Forum prior to UNEA meetings, multi-Stakeholder dialogue as part of the UNEA Agenda, involved in the Green Room, Side Events and interact with Member States.

He concluded by stating that the civil society are encouraged to engage because they could influence and improve global environmental decision making by bringing in their expertise; ensure that those who are affected by a certain decision are heard; add transparency and legitimacy to decision making processes; get to know what governments are doing when engaging internationally; make contact and start cooperation or strategic alliances with likeminded organizations; widen their horizons; understand what is going on and what would happen in the future; and, for youths, ensure that the voice of future generations is heard.





## Major Groups and Stakeholders Engagement at UNEP Isaiah Otieno, Civil Society Unit- Governance Affairs Office, UNEP



Mr. Otieno began by citing the reasons as to why civil society engagement was important. He stated that stakeholder expertise enriches the inter-governmental decision-making process without questioning the intergovernmental nature of the UNEP, adds transparency and legitimacy, and gives an opportunity for those who might be affected by decisions to raise their concerns. He recalled that since the first United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 - known as the Earth Summit, it was recognized that achieving sustainable development would require the active participation of all sectors of society and all types of people. Agenda 21, adopted at the Earth Summit, drew upon this sentiment and formalized nine sectors of society as the main channels through which broad participation would be facilitated in UN activities related to sustainable development.

Mr. Otieno highlighted that for Major Groups and Stakeholders, formal accreditation was required as a condition for participation. CSOs participate in UNEA and CPR meetings as observers with opportunity to provide oral and written

statements. The organizations have access to CPR portal including to unedited working documents and submission of written inputs. They attend Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF) prior to the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) as well as Youth Environmental Assembly (YEA), Regional Consultative Meetings (RCMs) which are often back-to-back to regional Ministerial Forum and Major Groups Facilitating Committee (MGFC) meetings.

Mr. Otieno informed delegates that at meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPRs), accredited organizations are able to participate in all public meetings, including sub-committees. There are reserved seats for the nine Major Groups and could also participate online. The organizations have an opportunity for written and oral comments. Accredited organizations also receive relevant documentation and have access to portals.

He further discussed the role of the Civil Society Unit in the Governance Affairs Office and the main planned activities ahead of a UNEA/ UNEA-6. Among the meetings where MGS were active included The African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) 1, Annual CPR Sub Committee Meeting, MGS inputs to the UNEA 6 theme, Ad-hoc open-ended working group (OEWG) on a Science-Policy Panel and the GEO-7 process.

He encouraged civil society organizations to visit their website, <https://www.unep.org/civil-society-engagement>, to learn more about the Civil Society Unit and also to find out how to be part of Major Groups and Stakeholders.

## Africa Major Groups' Follow-up of UNEA 5 and Preparations for UNEA 6 David N. Munene, Regional Facilitator, Africa MGS to the UNEP

Mr. Munene opened by giving a background of part one of the Fifth Session of United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 5.1) to the delegates. He stated that it was held online which covered administrative matters only. He then explained that three (3) procedural decisions were adopted which include the endorsement of 2022-25 Medium-Term Strategy and Programme of Work and Budget (Biennium 2022-23), trust funds management and earmarked contributions, and agreed to convene in-person second part of the Fifth session of UNEA (UNEA 5.2) in 2022. It was also decided that a two-days UNEP@50 would be held in Nairobi at UNEA 5.2. Kenya and Sweden agreed to work together for UNEP@50 and Stockholm+50.

UNEA 5.2 took place in 2022. A major achievement made included a joint statement drafted by Major Groups and Stakeholders (MGS) on the passing of a stand-alone resolution on the nexus between animal welfare, the environment and sustainable development during the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF). Participation also took place at Open Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR), UNEA 5.2 and UNEP@50.

Mr. Munene gave a summary on the outcome of the assembly that under the theme, Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and following

a series of discussions and deliberations: one ministerial declaration (UNEP/EA.5/HLS.1), fourteen (14) Resolutions adopted (UNEP/EA.5/Res.1-14) and four (4) Decisions (UNEA DECISION 5/1-4) were made.

He then informed the delegates on the progress made towards the upcoming UNEA 6. He stated that deliberations were ongoing with three (3) options fronted for the theme, and it was open to more edits. Mr. Munene concluded by listing the strides made by African Major Groups and Stakeholders in preparation towards the assembly. A hybrid African Major Groups and Stakeholder Meeting on Outcomes of the UNEA-5.2 was held in Rabat, Morocco on 20-21 June 2022 which was hosted by Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection and was supported by the UNEP and ANAW. Other events where African Major Groups and Stakeholders strongly participated included the Regional Consultation Meeting (RCM) in Senegal, 9th Annual Subcommittee meeting of the CPR, contributions to the UNEA 6 theme, participation in the resolution implementation committees and Joint Bureau Meeting in Rabat. He then stated that African MGS were working to develop a Consolidated Roadmap and continue ongoing engagements.



# Session 4A:

## Human Actions and Sustainable Development Impacts on Animals and the Environment





## **The Camel's Nose is Already Inside the Tent: Animal Welfare, Environment and Sustainable Development, Dr Andrew Rowan- Wellbeing International**

As an introduction to his talk about animal welfare science, Dr Rowan mentioned he had been working in that field since 1976 and noted the remarkable changes that had taken place from the days when they would celebrate a letter being published in *The Times* or the *Daily Telegraph* as a huge event for the organization he was working for, to now, with UNEP passing a resolution.

He then noted that animal welfare science could be dated back to about 1964-65 in England when Ruth Harrison published her book on *Animal Machines* which detailed about the manner at which farm animals were being raised in England at the time.

The British Government then established a committee under the chairmanship of Bramble, who then produced the Bramble report. His committee members included an animal behavior specialist, Professor Thorpe, from Cambridge University. The committee essentially produced the 'five freedoms', and thereafter the Farm Animal Welfare Council in the UK was established. That was just the beginning, but it took a while as it wasn't until 1980 that people started to talk seriously about farm animal welfare as a science, and started to look at what the animals were experiencing and what should be done about it. He continued explaining that between 1980 to 2000, there was a lot of activity in the European Union on Farm animal welfare science, and many scientists were recruited to research on chicken, cattle, and pig welfare and subsequently produced several reports in the field. In 2002 OIE, now WOA, developed several guideline documents on animal welfare and got agreements from 182 countries between 2002-2004. 20 years later, he noted that several universities across the globe such as in Massey, New Zealand, Melbourne, Queensland, Western Australia, Canada, Saskatchewan, Calgary, and British Columbia among other major centers were studying animal welfare, which shows a huge increase in terms of the professional animal welfare science.

However, he noted that animal welfare still had a major challenge. Elsevier started a journal in 1979 and it never survived as it was too early for the field at the time but the journals that started in the 1980s are all still publishing. A specialist group of animal welfare scientists came on the scene but were still struggling with defining animal welfare as it is not easy to define this like human welfare.

Dr Rowan then focused on the issue of elephants in Botswana as there was a major concern about controlling their ballooning population. He cited that Botswana had an estimated 220,000 elephants in the Kavango-Zambezi trans frontier conservation area, which was half the population in Africa, down from 10 million elephants back at the beginning of the 20th century. He also noted that the two and a half million people living in that area were experiencing continuous human-elephant conflict which was a huge problem. Though measures to address the problem were being developed, it was still a challenge. For instance, the Humane Society International wildlife

utility control, a vaccine known as the PZP vaccine had been developed which could be administered to wildlife. It worked well in ungulates as well as in elephants when it was tried, leading to an interesting approach to looking at elephant contraception.

He further explained that elephant contraception had been shown to work effectively as a non-lethal way of population control although it takes time. Immunization reduces the birth of calves in the first and second years, and stops production in the third year. Due to the vast numbers and large size of the elephants, the vaccine is administered through darting. However, seeing the struggle that they had to go through to administer the vaccine to the elephants, the animal experts looked for alternative ways including the use of helicopters to access an entire herd, which was very expensive. Therefore, experts were looking at modifying the vaccine to consider the dosage as per the animal size and formulate a vaccine that would last at least four years before elephants start reproducing again.

Diverting from the human-elephant conflicts in Botswana, Dr Rowan highlighted that America, in the last 5-10 years had started giving a huge amount of political activity to farm animal welfare where state legislatures were addressing farm animal welfare in droves with the example of the ban on the use of pig gestation crates in California. In China, a lot of progress in terms of welfare campaigns and movement had taken place in the last 20 years but there was still no law or regulations on animal welfare issues. On the other hand, India relied heavily on the traditional values of ahimsa, Buddhism and Hinduism religious teachings to practice animal welfare. He used the conference as an example, showing the strides that Africa had made in terms of addressing animal welfare in professional settings.

In concluding his presentation, he pointed out that in barring major catastrophes, animal welfare issues were not going away and there was need to put in more effort to make sure that we were treating animals in humane ways. Examples of animal welfare measures being instituted included the elimination of caged farm animals in Europe. He noted that the mistreatment of animals was connected to many environmental crises such as pollution coming from farm animal waste. For instance, in the Gulf of Mexico, there is a dead zone that has been created by waste from farming systems flowing into water systems polluting the waterways, and in Botswana, there is a crisis in the productivity of farm animals that need a lot of water to thrive yet there is a great shortage of the needed water due to drought. FAO identified that animal farming systems contribute to 15% of greenhouse gases and therefore, it was morally and politically the best decision to address animal welfare now rather than later.

Dr Yamo began his presentation by giving a background of World Animal Protection, whose vision is 'a world where animals live free from cruelty and suffering'. He then stated the organization's mission as: 'We Move the World to protect animals' emphasizing on the word 'we' to indicate that it was collective effort for everyone, and not necessarily the organization's staff.

Further, he cited World Animal Protection's goals as:

1. Ensure farmed animals live good lives by transforming the global food system Stop wild animals from being cruelly exploited.

2. Stop wild animals from being cruelly exploited as commodities by changing the systems that allow it.

He noted that the two goals intersected in animal feed production due to the fact that animal feed production was being done in habitats that were predominantly for wild animals was a major factor driving the conflicts between wild and farmed animals.

Dr Yamo then defined factory farms as systems of intensive farming where animals are raised under intensive methods, confined, overcrowded and under very controlled conditions. With the debate of whether Africa had factory farms in its proper definition or whether there were large-scale/big houses that have large numbers of animals, he noted the critical thing to understand is that in factory farms, the sentience of the animal was not recognized, and the goal was to minimize costs and maximize profit by quickly producing large numbers of animal products from very low cost all through the year.

This was unsustainable as it causes pollution, deforestation, antimicrobial resistance and ignored animal sentience. This also leads to negative environmental impacts because of the number of pesticides and chemicals that go into that system to manage some of the ectoparasites in the system, and to grow the maize and soya that need to go through that system. He further emphasized that waste management was of great significance as those big tracks of production systems produce a lot of manure that go into farming crop agriculture. He observed that science had shown that any contamination that is in manure from poultry or pig houses end up in the environment, and when it rains, the runoff ends up in the streams that contaminate the whole environment. Hence the importance of looking at it holistically from One- Health perspective.

He also highlighted that factory farms contributed greatly to antimicrobial resistance that is seen across the globe as the possible next pandemic. This is because it was estimated that 75% of antibiotics produced globally end up in factory farms or farming system predominantly in dairy, poultry, and pigs. Further, unacceptable practices such as early weaning, close confinement and poor ventilation lead to respiratory conditions, painful mutilation (debeaking, tail cutting), and fast growth in the case of broilers, thus affecting the wellbeing of the animals.

Dr Yamo observed that meat production and demand were on the increase and driven by the rapidly growing global population and hence the need to find ways to meet this demand while protecting the environment. For instance, an estimat-

ed 8 billion animals are consumed globally, with pigs and chickens being the most consumed. It is also projected that the consumption of meat would grow significantly in Africa, estimating 30% growth by 2030 (5.9% for beef, about 13% for pigs, 17% for chickens, and about 15-16% for sheep). He said that those statistics were adequate for all concerned to think through about future production systems and how to work around them to ensure that the welfare of animals is catered for and that there would be no negative environmental impact. Other impacts of factory farming that D. Yamo highlighted included:

1. Public health issues such as covid 19 pandemic, indicating that 50% of pandemics between 1940-2020 were observed to have emerged from factory farming, and, Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR), noting that the fact there were organisms that could not be treated if of much concern;

2. Animal suffering whose sentience is ignored;

3. Loss of biodiversity as large tracts of land is cleared to build the farms;

4. Undermining food security, meaning that farms do the opposite of what they are intending to do such as growing crops for humans as opposed to growing them for livestock, and

5. Climate Change: livestock production contributes about 26% of the greenhouse gases. This contribution was previously thought to be from cattle, but was later confirmed to be from all the animals such as cattle, pigs, chickens, goats and sheep.

He informed the conference about research that was conducted by World Animal Protection which compared the environmental impact of conventional factory farming with that of Industrial Farms with higher welfare standards (Farm Animals Responsible Minimum Standards - FARMS). The research entailed measuring the impact of human diets containing less chicken and pork, combined scenarios to model the climate change and environmental impacts when people "eat less and better" and, made projections for the above scenarios on the climate impacts in 2030, 2040 and 2050. The research found that the biggest climate change driver is the production of animal feed as they influence deforestation, use a lot of water, and pollute waterways with insecticides and fertilizers used by communities around the farms. He pointed out that for every 100 calories of crops fed to farm animals only 17-30 calories reach humans.

In conclusion, Dr Yamo posed the question on whether it was better to grow crops for human consumption directly or crops for animals that were then consumed as meat? He recommended asking consumers to eat less but better-quality meat and called on governments to stop approving factory farms by imposing a moratorium on factory farming within national climate actions (Nationally Determined Contributions) in recognition of factory farming's climate impact.



## The Inter-Connection of Development Activities, Animal Welfare, and Environment, Dr Lethogile Modisa - Conservation International and Dr. Pearl Mokoka - Directorate of Veterinary Services, Botswana

Dr Modisa began by mentioning that the growing human population is putting a strain on the environment leading to environmental pollution. An increased population of humans led to a need for increased food production which then led to more animal production directly affecting the need to increase the production of grains for feed, increased use of fertilizers to grow the feed, and ultimately increases pollution of the environment.

He continued by explaining that the increased need for animal production caused violation of animal welfare due to the use of small spaces to accommodate animals and scarce feeds. He then reiterated that animal welfare issues were categorized under the five freedoms, addressing the areas of environment, nutrition, health, behavior, and mental state of animals. Hence, some of the effects of industrial livestock production include:

1. Violation of animal welfare in feedlots, cages, and animal houses including cases of smoking bees to harvest honey;
2. Increased greenhouse emissions as animals are fed on grains from farmed crops as opposed to the natural feeding on greens;
3. Environmental contaminants in water systems, air, and food chain, through the proliferation of chemicals and transfer of antibiotics into food systems, and;
4. Competition for grain between animals and people as 80% of people's diet in Africa constitutes greens.

Dr Modisa listed the impact of food production to conservation of wildlife and the interaction between wildlife and humans. Fences put up in many places to bar animals from crossing certain boundaries had led to blockage of wild animal migration routes to access water, grazing, and breeding areas. This led to human-wildlife conflicts evidenced by injuries, poaching, disease outbreaks, displacement of wildlife species, and serious animal welfare violations like snaring, dog chase, improper shooting,

and extinction of some wildlife species.

To address most of these challenges, Dr Modisa informed the delegates that Botswana government together with Conservation International had developed a project titled 'Ecosystem-Based Adaptation and Mitigation in Botswana's Communal Grazing Lands' that seeks to address issues of animal welfare while considering the approach of the interconnectedness of people, animals, and the environment. This pilot project in Botswana would be replicated in other countries in Africa to create greater change in a wider region for greater benefits.

The approved project was trying to reverse the impacts of climate change and aimed to achieve 50% carbon emissions reduction while covering three areas of the country. He noted that climate resilient activities have been identified for implementation to produce impacts that conserve the environment and create balance in the ecosystem, for example strategic herding and kraaling. These are two simple strategies and traditionally accepted principles that local communities were using with great success. The project aimed at working with cattle kept in specific areas which moved periodically for them to disturb grass and land they were on and fertilize it using their waste.

He highlighted that the project in Botswana would take eight (8) years while focusing on the concept of Commodity Based Trade (CBT). The benefits of the CBT included addressing animal-human conflicts, protecting animals from predation, enhancing livestock value chains, and improving livestock production parameters. The use of technology was set to attract more youth compared to the current situation where the old age group was mostly involved in farming. He concluded the presentation by adding that engaging youths in an attractive way such as through use of technology would help them propagate the issues being addressed in future.



Dr Mokoka's presentation focused on efforts that had been made by Botswana's government to address the issues discussed by Dr Modisa. She informed the delegates that the government was keen on public awareness and education through various platforms and involving different players. These include public gatherings and meetings to address farmers and other activities such as animal care campaigns during the World Rabies Day commemoration. She reiterated on the need for a mindset change towards cultural practices and how to address people to promote animal welfare. Secondly, the Integration of animal welfare into the school curriculum and institutions such as Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN) which provided courses that were aimed at imparting knowledge and education to students, and promotes research around animal welfare issues.

She mentioned that Botswana was in the process of establishing the Botswana Public Health institute aimed at coordinating efforts of various department ministries and institutions such as the Ministry of Health, Agriculture, and Department of Environmental Health, in addressing issues that were cross-cutting affecting animals, humans, and the environment. Thirdly, the government was providing subsidies by having programs that assisted farmers in drilling boreholes to provide water to their animals. This included also helping in depopulating animals during disease outbreaks and compensating them through monetary compensation, restocking, and provision of resources to ensure humane depopulation of stock.

Dr Mokoka noted that legislation review was being followed with the WOAHA veterinary legislation support program. Botswana's Cruelty to Animals Act of 1936 had a penalty for offenses relating to the cruelty of animals of a fine not exceeding 50 Botswana Pula (about \$4), which was basically the price of a taxi to go to the mall, or imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or both. This penalty was effective enough to detect cruelty to animals during those years but not anymore. However, an Act covering animal health, animal welfare, and public health had been drafted and been taken through the process of assessment for purposes of approval.

She mentioned that different departments such as the Department of Veterinary Services had developed guidelines in the form of Standard Operating Procedures to guide in addressing animal welfare issues from the production level to the slaughter of animals. Mainly, those topics were based on international standards and trading partner requirements. She also stated that Botswana was a member of WOAHA and had made some efforts in implementing its animal welfare standards at the farm level, during transportation, at slaughter, in research and education, and, in the control of the dog population.

At the farm level, she explained that the standards required that the holdings where animals are kept, be it the feed lots, the farmed pens, or communal areas, were registered on Botswana's Animal Information and Sensibility System. For the holdings to be registered, they would have to provide ba-

sic elements required to ensure the welfare of animals. It was worth noting that chapter 7.9 which deals with the beef cattle production system is applicable, and mostly implemented in commercial set-ups where ani-

mal-based measurables such as animal behavior, mobility rates, mortality rate, or changes in body position for animal welfare are applied. During transportation, an audit is carried out by a competent authority to assess the compliance of the transporters to engage in transporting animals, including assessing the suitability of vehicles. At slaughter, animal welfare standards are implemented, particularly at abattoirs. She however reported that this may not be the case with traditional slaughter, for example, for cultural events such as weddings or funerals where animals are slaughtered for consumption. Guidelines had been developed for us in non-export abattoirs which requires all slaughter facilities to have in place a stunning gun.

Regarding the use of animals for research and education, Dr Mokoka informed the conference that the government envisioned conducting tests that limited the use of animals, and to humanely treat animals post-use and dispose of them in a humane manner such as rehoming or euthanasia. In controlling dog population, she noted that various players such as dog owners, the government, and private sector had a role to play. The government also embarked on annual rabies vaccination campaigns though anyone could just walk it into any veterinary office to get their pets vaccinated for free.

She concluded by emphasizing on the need to intensify public health and education, noting that the topic of animal welfare was still new in some places and infantile and hence the need to communicate effectively while raising awareness especially to policymakers. She hoped that the country established a national and modern network bringing together all stakeholders like the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Environment, people from the local government, and the general public in forums have discussions such as the one at the conference. She gave an example of the police service in Botswana who were the custodian of the Animal Welfare and Cruelty Act that needed to be empowered with information about animal welfare and the Act itself. Finally, she called upon AU-IBAR to support the country to develop a national animal welfare study and consequently strategies for animal welfare and health.





## Impact of Industrial Livestock Farming on Pandemics and Climate Change, Dr Patrick Muinde - Research Manager, World Animal Protection



Dr Muinde introduced the topic by indicating the importance of livestock production which was helping in creation of livelihoods, provision of nutrients and food security, and is used for social class identification including payment of dowry. He noted that livestock farming is quite an important aspect of Africa as it contributed to about 30% of the continent's GDP.

He informed delegates that major livestock production in Africa include the rearing of ruminant animals by smallholder mixed-crop farmers. However, he mentioned that urbanization and increased income create a higher demand for the consumption of milk, poultry, pork and their products. Different species of animals had increased in population over the last 60 years, between 1961-2020, and it was important to note the shift to the farming of monogastric animals. This was expected to increase per capita consumption in sub-Saharan Africa by doubling and even tripling by the year 2050. Regarding the typical farming systems found in Africa, he explained that they were integrated approaches where animals are kept on the same farm where crops grow, then the animals' manure is used to enrich the farms and left-over crops are used as animal feed. However, there was a shift happening where the stocking densities of animals were increasing, and they were being kept in limited spaces that restrict their five freedoms. Industrial livestock farms which are commonly referred to as factory farming, incorporate highly intensive methods to produce maximally within the shortest time possible and are highly dependent on inputs such as fertilizers, feeds and pesticides. The shift from integrated farming to industrial livestock farming had hidden impacts including:

1. Harboring the risk of zoonotic diseases which had contributed to multiple health pandemics like Avian Influenza, Swine Flu, and Covid-19.
2. Contribute to Anti-Microbial Resistance which has left many with the question of what the post-anti-microbial era would look like for humans when for example, someone goes to the hospital for treatment and

dies of minor illnesses because of the resistance to the antibiotic medication.

3. Climate change and crises due to long-term changes in weather patterns leading to drought and wildfires. An example is the case of Brazil and the Amazon which were deforested over the years, and this does not only affect that region but the entire world in different ways.

4. Animal suffering through painful mutilations, restricted movements, and overcrowding.

Dr Muinde highlighted that climate change would worsen with factory farming because of the need for more concentrate to feed the animals, more land conversion for cereal production leading to deforestation, and more fertilizer and pesticide use leading to environmental pollution. These would then impact human health by causing AMR and pandemics without forgetting the untold suffering of billions of animals. He recommended that there was need to embrace humane and sustainable food systems, including the adoption of policies that protect and restore our natural environment, fostering more closed food systems – our inherent systems, and building systems on principles of nutrient circularity and agroecology, where animal sentience is at the center of production.

To address these issues, he pointed out that the first Protein Summit was held on 18th and 19th of October, 2022 where a number of CSOs came together to deliberate on how to scale up humane, sustainable, and resilient food systems that are safe for people, animals and the planet. This was in cognizant of the fact that Africa is not able to withstand challenges caused by climate change impacts because of economic challenges, whereas the continent contributed the least to the global climate change, yet it is disproportionately affected by the climate change crisis. He acknowledged that some participants attended the summit and contributed to the development of a joint statement that outlined how Africa is vulnerable to climate change effects, and the importance of the local traditional systems that are built on principles of nutrient circularity and agroecology. The joint statement was titled “the need to transform food systems showing the nexus between climate change and animal agriculture” and would be presented at the 27th Climate Change conference (COP27) that was planned to take place in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt from 6th to 18th November 2022. He further invited the participants to join in the conversation by looking at the joint statement and co-signing on it so that the CSOs could see how best to pull together to push the conversation. He concluded by calling on African governments to adopt the same concept to ensure the continent could feed itself in the future.

## Panel Discussion: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Four Paws International

**Moderated by Daniela Battaglia, Livestock Production Officer, Animal Production and Health Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

Daniela began by introducing the panelists and then informed the conference that the panel discussions would focus on the goals, objectives, needs, and commitments for animal welfare in Africa, and particularly in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals. She reported that after having a similar session during 5th AAWC in 2021 with other collaborating organizations, they realized it was important to continue working on certain aspects towards implementation of animal welfare practices in Africa for the overall sustainability of the livestock sector, and thereafter formed a working group that met regularly over the year. She pointed out the importance of the livestock sector in several SDGs which included contribution to no poverty, zero hunger, decent work, economic growth, reducing inequality and climate change impacts, and in addressing certain land and environmental issues.

She mentioned that FAO would like to contribute to sustainable transformation of the livestock sector while responding societal needs and the challenges affecting the sector. She also spoke of the importance of strengthening their collaboration to support the sustainable, resilient, inclusive, and efficient development of the livestock sector, starting by recognizing the value and importance of local knowledge, local expertise and building up together in a collaborative effort to enhance their welfare. This is also through the welfare of the people that handle, own and depend on those animals as a source of food and income. She noted that by enhancing the well-being of the animals, they would like to consider the well-being of the people that are dependent on those animals.

### **Hlathe Bertha Moteane, Campaigns Officer, Four Paws, South Africa**

Bertha began by stating that animal welfare, environment and sustainable development were closely connected. She remarked that animal farming in all its different forms and human livelihoods were intrinsically connected and that over the past decades, livestock production had intensified and expanded at unprecedented rates, becoming a key driver of the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss.

The models of production shaped by the concentration of resources in the hands of a few transnational players on the global market were pushing the most vulnerable populations of our planet into more precarious conditions, particularly in the global South.

She however noted that agriculture could be a solution to the environmental crisis with specific farming practices providing some of the strongest adaptation measures to climate change, increasing the resilience of food systems, enhancing food availability and stability for people including community-based adaptation, agroecological principles, agroforestry, ecosystem-based management of production and other approaches that work with natural processes to support food security, health, and wellbeing, and biodiversity of ecosystem services.

The farming practices and principles are to a very large extent the same practices that supported human civilizations for centuries and were still practiced today by many smallholder farmers. In that system, animals were critical assets with multiple roles, and contributed to the resilience of households. She affirmed that the welfare of animals was therefore directly linked to the welfare of people

and communities who rely on them for sustenance. At the same time, the same communities are among the most vulnerable to the cascading effects of climate change and hence improving animal welfare could safeguard their livelihoods, that is, good animal welfare reduces their risk of illnesses and premature death, reduces losses for farmers, and it improves productivity.

In summary, Bertha mentioned that production systems that value the health and welfare of animals were vital for the achievement of many sustainable development goals. She observed that science showed that agricultural models that work with natural processes rather than against them could provide some of the strongest climate adaptation measures. Yet, it was the same communities practicing those models that came under immense pressure in the face of agricultural expansion and intensification that threatened to sink in and sweep them aside.

Therefore, there was need to work together across sectors and disciplines to find ways to support farming systems that valued animal welfare and could respond to a changing environment; look for ways to remedy those systemic animal welfare violations and widely spread intensive systems; and, prevent practices that were deeply harmful to animals, humans, and the environment from being established.

She also noted with concern that that in other parts of the world, most of those harmful practices were slowly being dismantled and it was unfair that they were being exported and dumped in Africa. There was need to find solutions that build on local knowledge, embrace evidence-based science, and that very traditional practice. She concluded by saying that securing animal welfare was one of the most organic ways of improving productivity and livelihoods.



Prof. Manteca described three developments in animal welfare research that were useful in an African context in fulfilling the SDGs: using farm animal welfare as a method together with other aspects to assess the sustainability of farming systems; the importance of using animals' natural behavior, and local knowledge to improve animal welfare and production systems; and, the interplay between animal welfare and conservation biology.

On sustainable farming systems, he observed that it was universally agreed that animal welfare must be explored in relationship with other important social concerns such as food safety, human and animal health, economic and environmental sustainability, biodiversity conservation, genders equality and social justice. In the scientific community, the concept of One Welfare had been around for some time capturing the idea that animal welfare was closely linked to human well-being, and both were linked to the functioning of the ecosystem. When pursuing research following the concept of One Welfare should be approached from an interdisciplinary point of view linking animal welfare knowledge coming from other scientific disciplines.

However, very often animal welfare scientists still looked at animal welfare on its own without relating it to other problems. He gave an example of a paper written by Donald Broom on the beef production system involving different aspects as an example of the integration of animal welfare and other scientific disciplines when making decisions on the husbandry of farm animals.

He continued by explaining that the expression of natural behavior and the possibility to choose among different feed options had been long recognized as a fundamental aspect of good animal welfare. However, many production systems restricted this, either because animals were kept in barren environments or because they are offered monotonous diets

that do not allow for any choice.

He noted that ruminant animals had evolved to constantly make choices about where and what to eat and these varied diets had shown evidence of less stress in the animals. An interesting aspect that he mentioned was that a study was done and showed that when sheep were placed in a grazing area with different foods, they tried out new foods to the extent of self-medicating by ingesting plants with medicinal properties. In turn, the variations in the diets had shown several benefits including biodiversity conservation and animal welfare.

The third development he discussed was the aspect of animal welfare and conservation biology. Those two disciplines have been in conflict for a long time as conservation biology dealt with populations and animal welfare dealt with needs. But over the last few years, it had been realized that many animal welfare problems included conservation biology aspects and vice versa. As populations are made of individuals, when free-ranging wild animals had difficulties coping with many human-caused environmental challenges, it led to poor welfare related to how well animals cope with challenges, hence leading to reduced survival, immunocompetence, and breeding success, which has an impact on conservation.

In conclusion, he highlighted that there have been several developments in animal welfare research that could contribute to the SDG in Africa and most of them follow an interdisciplinary approach. Building on the natural behavior of animals and on local knowledge could be beneficial in several contexts and there was potential in developing a network of animal welfarists and other scientists who share an interest to apply animal welfare research to tackle SDG-related challenges.



Rebecca and Gezahegn presented research work they had been carrying out in collaboration with ILRI, World Agroforestry, and VSF Suisse, which was funded by Biovision. To start with, they recognized that animal welfare was really growing in importance or recognition at a global level, quoting the adopted resolution by UNEA earlier in the year, and the 2019 Global Sustainable Development report that mentioned animal welfare. With the growth in that context, there was a realization of a need to best represent the concerns and opportunities for animal welfare coming down to a local level action.

A major gap in animal welfare knowledge, attitudes, and practices of practitioners, animal owners and people working with the animals in Ethiopia was identified and formed the baseline for the study. The project worked across four different regions in Ethiopia: Dukta, Humbo, Moyale, and pastoralist regions, with a varying range of agro-ecological zones.

Gezahegn explained that the study was conducted by collecting data on a range of species and welfare topics making a total of 34 questions on knowledge, attitudes, and practice from a population of 197 smallholder farmers. It involved different animal species ranging from cattle, sheep, goats, poultry, and camels in the pastoralist region. The results showed households practicing mixed crop-livestock farming systems had better animal welfare knowledge, attitude, and practice than pastoralists.

Mixed crop-livestock farmers had better knowledge on items related to observing the nutrition condition of the animal, animal-human relationship, the importance of water, and health inspection compared to pastoralists. In contrast, pastoralists had better knowledge of items related to natural behavior expression, animal care, and animal suf-

fering than mixed crop-livestock farmers. Pastoralists had more than three times higher odds than mixed crop-livestock farmers to have a positive attitude to train their animals without beating them. The general knowledge, attitude, and practice scores demonstrated the need for targeted training to improve animal well-being, such as housing, management, nutrition, disease prevention and treatment, responsible care, and humane handling across livestock-holding communities in Ethiopia.

In conclusion, Rebecca highlighted that the difference in knowledge, attitudes, and practice between the mixed crop-livestock farmers and pastoralists did not mean that one was better than the other, but it is more about the differences in the production systems. For example, the crop-livestock farmers had better access to extension services and veterinary services, differences in animal rearing and herd size, and animal use.

This presented two kinds of contrasting images: one was from a traditional crop-livestock farming system with a small herd of animals that were in close contact with their owners, and would be housed overnight and then taken out locally to graze during the day, whereas, on the second one, the pastoralists had larger herds grazed in a more free-access environment. Another highlight of the report was that providing resources could lead to differences and improvements in those practices. She informed the conference that the next steps of the project were to develop community actions on animal welfare using a community conversations approach, developing resources and training on animal welfare to animal owners and those offering veterinary services, and finally taking the outcome of the research to a high level from a policy perspective.

### Animal Welfare - Zimbabwean Perspective, Lawrence Dinginya

Focusing on the working equines, Lawrence began his presentation by pointing out that the global issue of animal welfare was not a tame problem but a wicked problem. He explained that tame problems had definite solutions that could be solved by linear systems such as mathematical and engineering solutions and had a clear and obvious stopping point, since it was easy to depict when a solution was reached.

Wicked problems on the other hand were ill-defined, vague, and associated with ethical, political, socioeconomic, and professional issues. Since they were strongly stakeholder dependent, there was often little consensus about what the problem was, let alone how to deal with it. Other characteristics of wicked problems included the possible solutions depending on how the problem was structured, and different stakeholders having diverse knowledge and interests.

Thus, the problem could not be definitively solved. He further noted that solutions to wicked problems were not true or false, but better or worse, and there was no immediate and nor ultimate test of a solution to a wicked problem. It was an ever-moving target. He gave the example of participants try-

ing to find a definition of animal welfare, and seeing how solving it was a complicated issue and wondering whether to move with the five freedoms or go with the domains as there was an increasing interest in the welfare issues.

After those remarks, he observed that animals were kept for various reasons such as for companionship or work, to produce food, fiber, for scientific and educational purposes, and could be transported and traded either locally or internationally. He also stated that healthy animals always produced more, they were cost-effective in agriculture productivity, they caused a low ecological disturbance, reduced the risk of zoonotic diseases, and communities enjoyed boosted economic capacities. He pointed out a possible link between animal welfare and sustainable development goals and that good animal welfare practices would assist in achieving most SDGs.

Lawrence informed the conference that Zimbabwe had shown success in animal welfare with the sponsorship of World Horse Welfare, SPANA, and Veterinary for Animal Welfare in Zimbabwe (VAWZ) who had assisted in



the welfare of working equines, mainly donkeys. This was through their assistance in the banning of donkey abattoirs in the country, research, community engagement on donkey welfare and effectively collaborating with the government in improving animal health and donkey welfare.

They also worked with local NGOs in pushing for cage-free egg production though most farmers were still reluctant to stop the use of cages as they believed that they saved costs, improved productivity, and reduced egg breakages and would get returns on their investment. However, the use of cages was not supported by the laws in Zimbabwe and possible solutions that could be taken up which would include educating the retailers on benefits of cage-free egg which could push them to only accept eggs from free-range hens. This would start as a competitive advantage to other farmers, but with time, become a competitive necessity.

He pointed out that the future trajectory for animal welfare in Zimbabwe was optimistic with ongoing amendments such as the review of the Animal Health Act which would then change its name to the Animal Health and Welfare Act, putting in place a district structure for animal welfare focal points, integration of animal welfare issues and research, using good animal welfare practices as leverage to improved productivity and market access, supporting national strategies such as Livestock Growth Plan and Agriculture and Food Systems Transformation Strategy, and, a veterinary school which has

a compulsory course in animal welfare.

To advance good animal welfare practices, he recommended the inclusion of animal welfare in courses such as law, livestock production, sociology and public leadership, including training of government extension workers in animal health and animal welfare on production, conducting local research on current animal welfare issues in Zimbabwe so as to have a baseline on the position of the country in terms of animal welfare, identifying willing farmers to become animal welfare champions at the community level, and leveraging on linkages of animals welfare with other global agendas such as agricultural productivity, climate change, AMR, gender equity, and poverty eradication.

He concluded the discussion by stating that animal welfare could be used as an indicator of human and economic development and that education and awareness were key in the successful implementation of animal welfare standards. Finally, there was need to differentiate between the developed countries who are more advanced in handling animal welfare issues compared to low-income countries living in poverty, and whose need was more on developing economically and had just started thinking about animal welfare and the welfare of their environment.

### **Animal Welfare - Kenya Perspective, Dr Jane Njuguna, Directorate of Veterinary Services, Kenya**

In highlighting what the goals, commitments, and requirements were needed to promote animal welfare in Kenya and in Africa in general, she gave a breakdown of what was present in the country. These included a devolved system of government that needed a lot of collaboration, the Kenyan constitution that addressed the issues of animal welfare under schedule 4, continuous coordination between the national and county governments, presence of multiple legislations in form of Acts that address animal welfare, the ongoing review of obsolete laws by the cabinet, and the presence of a dedicated office that develops policies and strategies for animal welfare.

She further mentioned that the One Health One Welfare approach was helping with animal welfare issues such as disease control and surveillance. She also noted that Kenya had some measures and mechanisms in place to ensure animal welfare was taken into consideration in the present and future.

These included compensation of farmers by the government when animals are in danger where the animals are taken to slaughterhouses and farmers are compensated with other animals later or are given the meat as compensation; the incorporation of care of animals in the competency-based curriculum which inculcates animal welfare values in children at an early age, and the presence of several NGOs in the country such as ANAW, Brooke EA, Kenya Society for the Protection and Care of Animals (KSPCA) and World Animal Protection among others who were advocating, creating awareness and lobbying for the implementation of issues in the governmental sector. She concluded by acknowledging that there was still more progress to be made regardless of the presence those stake-

holders due to a lack of resources to carry out the needed activities.

The panel concluded the discussion by highlighting several important issues that needed to be considered for implementation by FAO, Four PAWS, and the conveners of the panel. These included:

1. Change of perception of the community, top management, and political class on how to take on the issues of animal welfare;
2. Advocacy improvement to ensure policies and other issues are fast-tracked and moved along quickly for implementation and finally;
3. Capacity building and awareness creation to the governmental institutions, educational institutions, and the public to address local issues and give local actionable solutions;
4. The need to have a baseline knowledge of where the countries are at in terms of animal welfare through local research, with the results used to educate the public;
5. Legislation development, legal framework establishment, and homegrown knowledge must be included in addressing animal welfare issues.

An invite was then extended to those who wanted to join the working group and continue working together in the areas presented as the work continued in collaboration with governments and other non-governmental organizations.



# DAY 3:

## Session 5:

Africa Platform on Animal Welfare (APAW) - AU-IBAR





**Good Will Messages by Africa Platform On Animal Welfare (APAW) Partners  
Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW), Mr. Wachira Kariuki**

Mr. Wachira began his message by introducing ANAW as a not-for-profit organization based in Nairobi with a continental reach, and with its presence felt internationally due to the nature of work its doing in animal welfare. He disputed the statement that people speak for the voiceless animals because he believed that those spoken to do not listen since animals speak in their natural way indicating that they are not comfortable, they are in pain, or they just need attention. He continued by indicating that ANAW work with communities and governments by taking a strategy of not criticizing, but instead working with the government proactively rather than reactively which had paid off.

On the implementation of Animal Welfare Strategy for Africa (AWSA), he pointed out what ANAW was doing as per the strategy's priorities and action plan. First, he explained that ANAW as a network in its definition believed in collaboration, and that was the reason it had collaborated with many organizations and people in attendance at the conference with the belief that there was more to learn from the participants. Second, in training, education, and awareness, ANAW embarked on a program known as 'judicial dialogues' within the East African region by imparting knowledge to judicial officers and law enforcement officers on the importance of taking care of animals and enforcing the laws that were geared towards eliminating wildlife and environmental crimes. Further, he reported that the organization has an educational program known as Promoting Animal Welfare in Schools (PAWS) which it earlier partnered with SPANA to create awareness of animal welfare in schools. ANAW also worked with other organizations such as the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) to recognize animal welfare as a contemporary issue to be taught in school and included in the curriculum.

In terms of policy and legislation, Mr. Wachira noted that ANAW was in the process of legislation that brings up the issues of animal welfare at the local legislation, and while collaborating with other organizations had moved further at UNEA, asking Member States to investigate the nexus between animal welfare environment and sustainable development. He further explained that in future when the whole Nexus crystalizes, it would mean that other Member States in their own local jurisdiction would be able to do policy and legislation regarding animal Welfare.

Mr. Wachira informed the conference that ANAW

was partnering with Open Wing Alliance and Center for Effective Altruism to carry out research which led to the understanding of the status of caged – hen farming, a form of factory farming, within East Africa and West African countries. Important data was gathered on the existence and extent of battery cage use and other means of chicken production; conducted a review of existing national policies and legislative framework regulations with a focus on intensive chicken production through the use of battery cages; and, conducted a general assessment of consumer public perception in view of chicken production system and whether they affected their purchasing capability and preference for the end product, which was important because it led to the understanding of the market dynamics. This research led to the development of policy briefs and practical alternatives to the use of battery cages, and also recommended the desired policies and legislative processes. On donkey welfare, he reported that ANAW had partnered with Brooke East Africa and WTG, and collaborate with other stakeholders, to curtail the donkey skin trade through campaigns. This was ultimately to ensure that the welfare of chicken and donkeys is assured in the continent.

In communication and advocacy, Mr. Wachira informed the conference that ANAW had been advocating for animal welfare recognition within the communication sector by partnering with media houses to produce and broadcast documentaries on donkey movement and their economic value to the communities, on chicken welfare through anti-cages campaigns, and carrying out media workshops with the journalists in East Africa. This is with the recognition that media is a powerful tool for passing messages to large audiences and also in influencing policy.

Regarding resource mobilization, he pointed out that the aforementioned projects required mobilization of partners to support them called upon other organizations in attendance to partner in future projects. He concluded by urging everyone to do their little thing, quoting the late Prof Wangari Mathai, to achieve the Animal Welfare Strategy for Africa. He reiterated that one willing partner in helping to do their one little thing was Africa Network for Animal Welfare, the people who love animals and speak about animals.

## Society for the Protection of Animals Abroad (SPANA), Linda Edwards

Linda began by mentioning that she considered Africa as a second home having had the privilege to spend most of her adult years living across many countries in the continent.

She then stated that the interdependencies of animals, people, and the environment, which was the theme of the incredible conference, had never been clearer, and certainly mirrored the way SPANA was moving forward as it celebrated its 100th birthday. She mentioned that SPANA was honored to have worked over decades with many of the conference participants and many of their predecessors and hoped to continue working with the next generation long after the retirement of the current staff and partners.

Linda noted that SPANA believed in collaboration by working and supporting projects for working animals across many countries in Africa. Through this, they continued to learn, to know the need of working in a more holistic way, and the need to engage the global youth who would be future voices, future owners, but more importantly the future decision-makers.

On her first visit with SPANA, Linda remarked that she was honored to have traveled to Mauritania to launch a new pro-

ject known as Les écoles vertes; the green schools, which was led by the Ministries of Education and Environment. This was exciting for SPANA as the country director had managed to navigate with the various ministries, which in any country was complex, and talked about animal welfare as part of an integrated process regarding the environment and human development, and most importantly ensured that it was seen as a priority and integrated into the curriculum.

Though the project was still in its pilot phase, the commitment to animal welfare was seen and addressed as part of climate and environmental pressures. In concluding her remarks, she acknowledged that there would be many challenges along the way but the Animal Welfare Nexus Resolution, the energy of the people in the room and participating virtually demonstrated that they would overcome those challenges.

Further, the Covid-19 pandemic had demonstrated how interconnected people were and SPANA was looking forward to joining the journey with various partners and stakeholders.

## OPENING REMARKS BY CVO, BOTSWANA - Dr. Mutsapa\* read by Dr. Pearl Mokoka

While reading the remarks, Dr Mokoka started by recognizing the stewardship of AU-IBAR on the animal welfare sector in Africa, and the support from FAO, WOA, UNDP, UNEP, animal welfare organizations, and other esteemed organizations who work together to realize a prosperous vision for Africa.

She gave an overview of the animal resource sector in Botswana stating that three-quarters (3/4) of the land consisted of rangelands making livestock the principal agricultural resource contributing 80% of value-added agriculture. Of this, most of the cattle produced was exported in the form of fresh and frozen meat whereas small ruminants consumed domestically. To achieve the export market while protecting the national community, Botswana was committed to controlling livestock diseases. She noted that Foot and Mouth Disease was endemic in wild buffalos and in the neighboring countries and was controlled by a combination of annual vaccination campaigns and a systemic division of the country into sanitary zones. The movement of livestock between those zones was controlled by corded fences and quarantine camps.

Dr Mokoka informed the conference that the country had a national policy for tribal grazing land which constituted the major component of the government land development policy. It had three objectives:

1. Stopping overgrazing and degradation of rangelands caused by uncontrolled use of communal grazing areas due to the ever-growing numbers of animals;
2. Promoting better income distribution in the rural areas;
3. Allowing growth and commercialization of the

livestock industry on a sustained basis.

She also highlighted that wildlife in Botswana contributes to approximately 3% of the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and thus protecting wildlife was critically important given that more than 40% of the country's land area has been designated to national parks and game reserves. The resource of nature was also important to local communities due to provision of services such as clean water, generation of revenues, employment, infrastructure, and general national development.

With the overview above, she observed that animal welfare is an important issue in Botswana, which recognizes the critical nexus between the environment, the well-being of animals, and the welfare of its society. The country was therefore elated by developments such as the UNEA resolution on this nexus and the African continent trade agreement which would enhance intra-African trade within the continent.

Further, she noted that the AWSA provided an opportunity for a harmonious approach to safeguarding the well-being of animal resources in Africa as mitigation against transboundary challenges that compromise the efforts of a given country to protect its own animal resources. In concluding her remarks, she wished to join the ranks of others who had congratulated UNEP, AU-IBAR, ANAW and partners for choosing to hold the 6th Africa Animal Welfare Conference in Botswana, indicating that they were elated by the recognition of the efforts to uphold the conservation of natural resources such as animals and the fragile environment upon which they depend.



# Session 5.1:

Status of The Implementation of The Animal Welfare Strategy for Africa (AWSA)





**Moderators: Mr. Josiah Ojwang; Dr. Patrick Muinde**

### **Brief History of AWSA, Tennyson Williams**



Mr. Williams started by giving background on why the Animal Welfare Strategy for Africa (AWSA) was developed. This was after NGOs in Nairobi and other parts of the continent were yearning to have a relationship with the African Union - Inter Africa Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), the arm of the African Union Commission that is responsible for the management of animal resources on the continent.

AU-IBAR, which supports member states in Africa, advised the NGOs to organize themselves so as to be recognized as a body of CSOs instead of having MOUs with individual organizations. Further, Mr. Williams also highlighted that the idea of the strategy was also born because of the 2005 Maputo declaration, which led to the development of the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP). The declaration was recently reviewed in Malabo, West Africa, and led to the Malabo declaration. He noted that the two instruments spelled out the desire and the aspiration of Africa to deliver the management of animal resources on the continent clear policy provisions. For example, the CAADP initiative called on every government on the continent of Africa to allocate at least 10% of its resources to deliver on agriculture.

Mr. Williams observed that the absence of a strategy with clear focus, vision, and mission for what Africa really needed to do was identified as a major gap. At the same time, it was realized that Africa was lagging in dealing with animal welfare matters. Though the concept of animal welfare was seen as a western idea, it was evident that it was not foreign since people in Africa interacted with animals daily. To elaborate this, he gave an example of pastoralists in northern Kenya who always wanted to see to it that their heads of cattle were not enduring any suffering or cruelty. He also observed that most laws in the continent were crafted in colonial times and had no place in modern-day Africa. Though the laws have punitive measures in place such as fines, they would not be a quick fix to deter those treating animals in a cruel manner due to lack of provisions for creating awareness, as it was possible to find people treating animals with complete disregard for their sentient nature, although they loved their animals. In ad-

dition, the formulation of AWSA was meant to advance the strategic priorities of the Livestock Development Strategy for Africa and the WOAH standards.

He further informed the delegates that in 2015, the first animal continental conference on animal welfare was held in Nairobi, and for the first time all the Chief Veterinary Officers convened in Nairobi. The conference birthed AWSA with the support of various NGOs, governments, AU-IBAR, and other actors. In 2017, the Africa Union Commission went through the process of endorsing the strategy by all heads of state. However, its implementation remained a challenge. There was a need for an implementation and monitoring framework to ensure the delivery of the strategy was identified which led to the formation of the Africa Platform for Animal Welfare (APAW) and AU-IBAR was identified as its Secretariat.

APAW was therefore established and hosted at AU-IBAR to coordinate and guide the process of developing AWSA and enhance collaboration, cooperation, coordination, and partnership with specialized organizations.

While elaborating more about AWSA, Mr. Williams gave a summary of AWSA's vision, mission, its five goals and its three strategic objectives as detailed in the document that could be accessed here:

[https://rr-africa.woah.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/awsa\\_executive\\_summary\\_layout\\_eng\\_2017.pdf](https://rr-africa.woah.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/awsa_executive_summary_layout_eng_2017.pdf).

He observed that the strategy recognized a range of actors that have a role to play, and that its implementation was tied to the availability of financial resources. He noted that the strategy has seven priorities as follows:

1. Training, education, and awareness;
2. Policy and Legislation;
3. Research;
4. Coordination;
5. Communication and advocacy;
6. Monitoring and evaluation;
7. Resource mobilization.

Tennyson concluded his presentation summarizing AWSA's areas of the action plan as:

- i. Establishing the status of animal welfare in Africa;
- ii. Linking socioeconomic and animal resource development to the principles of One health One Welfare, noting that animal health and human health are inextricably linked;
- iii. Institutionalizing animal welfare in policies, education, legislation, development strategies, programs, and projects;
- iv. Strengthening capacities for animal welfare at all levels: national, regional, and continental levels;
- v. Developing the continental, regional and national communication strategy on animal welfare; and,
- vi. Establishing a monitoring and evaluation framework.



## Updates on the Status of The Operationalization of APAW and the Establishment and Operationalization of the Regional Animal Welfare Network, Dr. Hiver Boussini

In his presentation that was delivered by Dr Mbaka, Dr Boussini informed delegates that the priorities of APAW in the implementation of AWSA included spearheading and coordinating interventions for animal welfare projects in Africa through;

1. Research to establish the gaps and lessons, and opportunities from the findings;
2. Training, education and awareness;
3. Policy and legislation to ensure the sustainability of interventions;
4. Communication and advocacy with the common goal of benefiting people, animals and the planet which have been shown to be inextricably connected;
5. Monitoring and evaluation that intend to ensure there is continual improvement in the interventions to enhance animal welfare in Africa; and,
6. Resource mobilization.

He however noted that the AU-IBAR had developed the Action Plan to implement APAW's mandate of coordinating the implementation of AWSA, but the Action Plan was not fully implemented due to a lack of resources. He then highlighted what had been achieved such as the establishment of the status of animal welfare in Africa. Other ongoing activities included linking social economy and animal resources development to the principles of one health and one welfare; and, the institutionalization of animal welfare policies, legislation, education, development strategies, programs and projects. The strengthening of capacities for animal welfare at all levels, at the national, regional, and continental, was also ongoing activity. He however indicated that the development of a continental, regional and national communications strategy on animal welfare and the establishment of monitoring and evaluation systems were yet established.

Dr Boussini mentioned that APAW's functions are delivered through the Coordination Committee of Animal welfare in Africa (CCAWA). In its mandate to support, coordinate and guide the implementation of the AWSA, specifically to champion animal welfare and support voices on animal welfare agenda in Africa, AU-IBAR through the APAW has pre-

viously been involved in:

1. Convening African Animal Welfare Conference;
2. Planning the Pan African Donkey Conference;
3. The involvement in the UNEA process;
4. Developing strategies for vision 2030 for rabies eradication in Africa; and,
5. Supporting initiatives and programs at continental, regional, and national levels to strengthen animal welfare through sustainable and efficient involvement of the public sector, civil societies, research and training institutions, and the private sector.

As part of the implementation of AWSA by APAW, animal health strategies in the IGAD and ECOWAS regions have been established while the development of the same strategy was ongoing at the ECCAS region. In addition, a regional animal welfare network for the IGAD region was planned to be launched on November 29, 2022, whereas a resolution to establish the region's animal welfare network in the ECOWAS region was endorsed in September 2022.

Regarding the challenges encountered, Dr Boussini noted that is the Covid-19 restrictions on mobility affected travels but they were adapting to virtual engagements. Lack of financial resources had delayed APAW's mandate and Dr Boussini encouraged APAW partners to offer support, and at the same time be efficient in the utilization of the available resources. Further, APAW secretariat experienced lack inadequate human resources. Lastly, there was a challenge of silo approaches where Member States, with the support of other partners, were at different levels of implementing AWSA with activities in those countries not necessarily aligned with the timelines of the strategy.

In conclusion, he highlighted the need for harmonization of the interventions through the Coordination Committee, including engaging animal welfare experts who would support the Secretariat, hence addressing the challenge of the human resource capacity.

Dr Mbaka began his presentation by stating that the vision of AWSA was that Africa would be a leading continent in the implementation of good animal welfare practices for a competitive and sustainable animal resource industry. This meant that animals would be treated as sentient beings and not suffer in any way due to poor animal welfare. On strategic outcome one which was the establishment of the APAW, it was envisioned that it would sustain by leveraging on the convening power of AU-IBAR in close collaboration with FAO and WOAHI, and spearheaded through the CCAWA in order to raise existing activities on animal welfare to a higher level of action and impact, and lead a great impetus on animal welfare in Africa.

The second outcome was effective actions on animal welfare expanded and scaled up at regional and country levels. This meant responding to the national development priorities, supporting regional economic communities, and coordinating international technical and financial partners for upscaling country programming and implementation under the leadership of a national chapter the APAW.

Dr Mbaka then delved into updating the conference on implementation of AWSA, indicating that APAW was already established. Further, he mentioned that AU-IBAR had provided support to IGAD, ICPALD and ECOWAS regional animal welfare networks to develop their regional animal welfare strategies and action plans in line with the continental framework. He noted that IGAD Member States had initiated the implementation of their national animal welfare strategies. In addition, AU-IBAR was assisting the central and North African regions to develop their regional animal welfare frameworks, and in the next phase, it would focus on the SADC region. He also reported that AU-IBAR had provided technical and financial assistance to over 40 countries to modernize their national veterinary legislation and animal health acts. AU-IBAR had also entered into a formal agreement with the World Animal Protection and Action for the Protection of Animals in Africa (APAA) to develop a continental rabies control and elimination strategy, which was aligned with the global strategy for the elimination of dog-mediated rabies by 2030.

He then appreciated various organization for their partnership with AU-IBAR for supporting the implementation of APAW, as follows:

1. ANAW for sponsoring and seconding an animal welfare expert to strengthen the APAW secretariat during the UNEA process to the resolution of the animal welfare, the environment, and sustainable development nexus.
2. European Union in its various programs to enhance the animal resources sector in Africa. Third, he appreciated the support from WAP and APAA to develop the rabies control and elimination strategy.
3. Brooke Hospital for Animals, The Donkey Sanctuary, SPANA, World Horse Welfare, World Animal Protection, WOAHI and ILRI for helping to convene the Pan

African Donkey Conference (PADCo).

4. Commitments from the World Horse welfare and the Coalition for Animal Welfare Organizations to support the development of the SADC animals' welfare strategy and action plans.

5. Commitment from the animal welfare organizations in the APAW to recruit an animal welfare expert to support their APAW secretariat.

Dr Mbaka notified the conference about the next steps which would be to support Member States to mainstream their animal welfare policies in their strategic plans; hold an APAW General Assembly early in the second quarter of 2023; and, to support North and Central Africa to develop their regional animal welfare strategies.

Diverting from his key topic of presentation, he gave an overview of what was perceived to be a compelling case for animal welfare in Africa. He then informed the conference of initiatives aimed at enhancing the performance of the animal resources sector in Africa as follows: the 2014 Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth in Africa and the Agenda 2063 initiative through CAADP whose goal was to raise economic growth through agriculture-led development, and the Livestock Development Strategy for Africa (LIDESAs) to enhance the productivity of livestock.

The key concern regarding the livestock development initiatives was that without providing for animal welfare, the aspirations of the Malabo declaration, the CAADP initiative for Agenda 2063, and the LIDESAs could not be achieved. This was because an increased investment in agriculture which neglected specific and deliberate initiatives to improve animal welfare causes, would not only lead to poor animal welfare, but would also cause environmental pollution hence leading to disruption of ecosystems, immunosuppression which would cause losses through increased demand for expensive veterinary interventions and risk antimicrobial resistance, animals would be prone to diseases some of which would be zoonotic and hence a threat to public health, and thus an increased medical bill for Africa, and lastly, feed wastage since stress suppresses digestion, absorption and metabolism of nutrients which imply a poor feed conversion, and thus food insecurity and economic losses.

He therefore called on every African Union member state and partners to commit to supporting the implementation of the UNEA nexus resolution. He then emphasized that good animal welfare translates into human welfare, and urged delegates to commit to engage with their political leaders and persuade them to commit to investing in the implementation of AWSA. He noted that the implementation of AWSA should be viewed as an integral component of achieving Agenda 2063, improving livelihoods, and safeguarding public health in Africa. He concluded his presentation by pointing out that animal welfare is a necessity and unlike animal rights, which is a moral obligation, disregarding animal welfare is a testament to postponing the date for calamity to strike humanity.



## Re-Energizing the African Platform for Animal Welfare (APAW), Dr. Mwenda Mbaka

Dr Mbaka remarked that re-energizing APAW was needed because there was a recognition that there was platform, a strategy and an action plan, but its implementation was wanting. He listed the earlier highlighted areas of focus of APAW and noted that the development of continental, regional and national communication strategy on animal welfare and the establishment of a monitoring and evaluation system were pending, and were critical for re-energizing APAW.

He then briefly talked about the functions of the APAW through the Coordination Committee of Animal Welfare in Africa (CCAWA). He noted that the work plan to implement AWSA aimed to achieve the result areas and specific activities within the four-year implementation plan as articulated in the AWSA document available on the AU-IBAR website. Various countries were at different stages of implementation with CSOs participating in those diverse activities, following their internal work plans which were not aligned with the

timelines of the AWSA.

This brought out a clear need for harmonization through CCAWA, perhaps through a systematic distribution of responsibilities for the various activities in the strategy for efficient monitoring & evaluation and, coordinated incremental progress in the implementation of AWSA. The CCAWA could oversight the allocation of activities and conduct periodic monitoring and evaluation while reporting to APAW. He however said that AU-IBAR believed in the spirit of consultation, and it could not prescribe, but only convene stakeholders to discuss how best to make progress in the area of the animal welfare agenda in Africa.

In conclusion, he stated that CCAWA provides resources to support the secretariat and oversees its functioning such as through: agenda setting, and the outcome of getting an involved CCAWA is a fully functional APAW.



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# Session 5.2:

## A Compelling Case for Animal Welfare in Africa





## The Socio-Economic Balance Sheet of Animal Welfare (Benefits Versus Losses from Animal Welfare Practices), Prof. Cheikh Ly

In his presentation, it was stated that animals were central to food production systems and therefore their welfare is of great importance. Linkages existed between the indicators for animal welfare, animal health, productivity, food security, incomes, and livelihoods. Therefore, animal welfare is intrinsically a concern for human welfare requiring inclusive and multidisciplinary approaches within the livestock sector. Animal welfare standards are therefore important because they serve as guidelines on good animal welfare practices. It is the role of WOAAH to convene member states to develop the standards which they should ensure that they are implemented.

It was reported that the role of the AU-IBAR in all this is the coordination of the conservation and the development of the animal resources sector in Africa. Conservation links to the genetic resources in the animal resources and development is linked to animal health and production which goes into the management of the resource.

Due to this, Prof. Cheikh Ly remarked that there was need to have an adequate social economic perspective of animal welfare to mainstream it in reforms, policies, strategies, and programs on livestock development. This holistic approach would introduce to us the value of biodiversity and other factors to do with the impact of animals on climate change. He also noted that there was need to consolidate the work at the continental level in line with AWSA, Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare (UDAW), and WOAAH standards.

It was noted that 'Balance' usually indicates a pivoting between one side and the other side. The balance sheet in this instance is the difference between the gains and the costs of what is done about animal welfare which is then given as an indicator in the form of the social economic benefits of animal welfare. A few definitions to help internalize some of the concepts in the presentation were 'Gains' which is the anticipated benefits emanating from good animal welfare practices such as meat, milk, work, and others such as environmental benefits, freedom from veterinary public health challenges such as zoonoses, cultural rites, dignity, self-esteem and companionship. 'Costs' could be monetary such as veterinary /medical bills, dead animals, discarded milk/meat and lost opportunities, for instance food insecurity and poverty due to poor productivity, harm caused by environmental costs, lost manhours due to veterinary public health issues, or Psychological such as empathy, dignity [cultural impotence].

Explaining further, he said that there was a cost of reduced productivity and production if the five freedoms are not enforced. On the other hand, benefits arise by improving productivity, profitability and better public health if they are enforced. These include:

1. Freedom from hunger and thirst: ready access to fresh water and nutrition to maintain full health and vigor - there is the cost of the feed and water which are essential components for production;
2. Freedom from discomfort: the costs involved in-

clude shelter and comfort to provide an appropriate environment - the benefits are conservation of the asset, productivity and veterinary public health;

3. Freedom from pain, injury, or disease: the costs include prevention, professional rapid diagnosis and treatment, while the benefits are the protection of the assets and avoiding associated zoonosis and antimicrobial resistance;

4. Freedom for expression of normal behavior: by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and the company of the animal's own kind - the cost is that of their habitat renewal, pasture and fodder production, while the benefits are an environment for optimal production, saving on costs of treatments and safeguarding veterinary public health issues;

5. Freedom from fear and distress: by ensuring conditions and treatments which avoid mental discomfort - there is the cost of technologies, techniques and good practices, while the benefits are better productivity hence assured returns on investments in the technology and the veterinary public health.

The situation analysis of the social economies of animal welfare in Africa includes a need for data on the animals in farming, in the wild, in communities, in disasters (drought, flood, heat/cold waves). Further data is required on environmental costs and human costs such as injuries, disease, lost manpower and psychological issues. It was however relayed that the challenges were where and how to get the data, who would collect and analyze them, and how much it would cost.

Prof. raised the key animal welfare issues raised in Africa. These included lack of adequate education and awareness; inadequate stakeholder's engagement and involvement; lack of home-grown science and research; inadequate understanding of the value of animal welfare (including economic, non-economic and social value) in production systems; trade and health issues by value chain actors; inadequate policy framework, guidelines, strategies, and action plans as depicted by lack of laws or outdated laws, inappropriate regulations and standards; weak or no implementation and enforcement; inappropriate husbandry practices, both in indigenous and modern husbandry that lack adequate knowledge on impact of good animal welfare practices on productivity leading to disregard of animal welfare in production systems; lack of adequate engagement of women and youth in the animal sector; inadequate implementation, enforcement and M&E of animal welfare interventions; little or no participation in standard setting processes leading to inadequate compliance, domestication and benchmarking against WOAAH standards; inadequate natural resource management resulting in low resilience against droughts, floods and other natural disasters; competing use of natural resources, pressure on land, climate change leading

to negative impacts on animal welfare; lack of recognition and mitigation against emerging issues such as climate change; inappropriate use of drugs in animals the lack of addressing animal welfare in non-traditional species such as captive wildlife, aquaculture and cage fisheries, dromedaries and other working animals, non-traditional food/farm animals, non-traditional companion animals; and a lack of financial, technical, technological, social capital and resourcing for animal. This leads to a challenge in establishing a social economic balance sheet for animal welfare, especially due to technical, Institutional and social impediments. So, in terms of improvement of the animal welfare perspectives and strategies, he suggested that Africa establishes a robust and progressive information system on animal welfare within the monitoring of the transformation of the African Livestock Sector, touching on owners, users, service providers as well as value chain actors. Therefore, animals could be better treated and have keepers and users equipped to realize the

### **A Compelling Case for Animal Welfare in Africa, Dr Kikiopé Oluwarore**

In her introduction, Dr Oluwarore expressed gratitude to the organizers of the Africa Animal Welfare Conference for such a wonderful event, and also to AU-IBAR for mandating the development of those reports and subsequent presentations. Sharing a compelling case for Africa, she aimed to express the need to implement animal welfare policies, systems and practices across Africa. She gave a background on animal welfare, noting that it had grown from just talking about the healthy functioning of animals and the animals' body of production, to now recognizing that the role of sentience is also an important part.

Building upon this, she recognized that there was impact that animal welfare has on other spheres of development, including public health and social economic development. This role had become even much more important with the kind of interconnected world that we now live in. She also mentioned that there was a seemingly level of neglect on animal welfare in Africa and recognized the role of AU-IBAR to support the implementation of AWSA.

It was for this reason the coordinating committee for animal welfare was established to improve knowledge, promote awareness, and provide an understanding of the need for a compelling case on animal welfare in Africa. In carrying out the study, they combined a couple of methods, including literature review, implementation of survey questionnaires and key format interviews, while data was analyzed using the basic analysis tool for constructive and qualitative analysis. They also reviewed several research papers and literature from different organizations across the world that have been working on animal welfare.

From the results of study, Dr Oluwarore reported that one of the key things that stood out was the general prevalence of poor animal welfare practices in Africa, cutting across all countries in the continent. The general notion was that there are poor transport and slaughter practices, poor handling, inadequate provision of food and water,

full economic potential of animal welfare by lowering costs and improving gains/returns on animal welfare.

While concluding his presentation, he emphasized about a system approach of being compassionate to animals, but also consider sustainable livelihoods, value chains for safe and profitable food and nutrition, security, efficient animal traction, and utilization for work. In other words, he noted that the efforts could be organized through:

1. Robust animal welfare sub-systems or units within animal health, veterinary management and Animal production systems;
2. Capacity development of poor livestock owners and users;
3. Cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary approaches with best available analysis and science.
4. Capacity to coordinate cross-country and cross-regional animal welfare improvement efforts including the private sector, farming communities, regional organizations, international organizations and the donor community.

restriction of movement and natural behaviors of farm animals - particularly domestic animals, poor quality veterinary services, poor antimicrobial stewardship and administration of unnatural additives.

Further, another key result realized in the data collected was that 36% of country-level animal welfare focal persons did not understand the meaning and impact of animal welfare. This was critical because these are the people and professionals who are meant to be custodians and promoters of animal welfare in those countries yet they do not understand the basics such as the meaning or the impact of animal welfare. At the same time, they are meant to push Member States, policymakers and people who are not professionals of animal welfare to implement some of these practices and policies. She also reported that 64% of countries did not have animal welfare policies, and for those who had them, they were not implementing them at the sub-national level.

Dr Oluwarore then presented to delegates reasons for a compelling case for animal welfare in Africa as detailed below:

The first one is the impact of animal welfare on animal health and productivity. When animals are taken care of and good welfare practices are implemented on the farm, one would expect provision of positive impacts for animals by having less stress and fewer incidents of injuries which enhance their productivity and immunity. With the enhanced immunity they could have resistance to diseases reducing the need to continually administer antibiotics, which ultimately reduce the states of antimicrobial resistance in the animal. She also stated that at least 75% of infectious diseases are from animals to humans, and thus by implementing good animal welfare practices, the risk of zoonotic infections transferred to humans is reduced.

Secondly, by improving animal welfare standards and practices, we could support beneficial coexistence with animals



in the ecosystem, as people live alongside the animals and plants. This would improve our own social well-being on mental health and creates happy beneficial co-existence among people, animals and plants.

She also mentioned that the third reason was that good welfare standards could maintain the quality of meats and other animals' by-products such as food, eggs, or milk, and have a better rate of spoilage when they are sold in markets. This is because the impact on food safety and quality is affected when animals are stressed because of poor welfare conditions and the food product from such animals have a poor rendition of quality, appearance, nutritional quality and they spoil faster. Dr Oluwarore observed that the impact on environmental health and climate change has been well spoken about especially in the last two years due to the engagements with UNEP. One key part of animal welfare was the consideration to utilize alternative production systems to factory farming to reduce the contribution of animal waste to greenhouse gases, minimize land exploitation and sustain the ecosystem for the current and future generations. She noted that reliance on factory farming intensive production as the population kept rising and demand for protein grew, environmental sustainability was compromised and increased the risk of climate change. This then required the need to think of alternative proteins in order to sustainably meet the growing demands for food and protein.

Fifth, on the impact of social economic development, she remarked that there was great demand by consumers worldwide to want to purchase products from farming systems that implement good animal welfare practices. Therefore, if farmers could implement farming practices and other systems that meet this kind of consumer demand, it would help improve their economic returns. She however stated that international welfare guidelines needed to be in alignment with international trade guidelines to allow access to trade within and outside the countries, including out of Africa. This would in turn help to bring in good economic return, increase contribution to GDP and improve the livelihood of farmers.

To elaborate more on the interconnectedness of the ecosys-

tem, she shared a diagram showing the One Health, One Welfare approach. She explained that animals, humans, the environment, and the economy were all connected and that what happened to each area affected. For animals, if we continued to implement poor animal welfare practices, animals would continue to be stressed. This would lead to vulnerability, illnesses and poor productivity leading to the continual purchase of drugs and antibiotics which would then have an adverse effect on animals and humans. For human beings, the continuous implementation of poor animal welfare practices would increase the risk of diseases.

Further, continued generation of poor-quality food products for human health would lead to continued purchase of drugs and antibiotics that would increase the cost of treatment. On the environment, poor animal welfare practices rely heavily on factory farming and intensive production systems which increase the risk of climate change leading to continually putting in resources to combat the impacts of climate change and poor outcomes from poor sustainability. Finally on the economy, if good animal welfare practices are not implemented, all the negative impacts on human, animal and environmental health would lead to an increased budgetary burden on animal health hence losing opportunities for good income and revenues.

Focusing on the solutions, Dr Oluwarore highlighted four key recommendations for AU-IBAR and specifically the Coordinating Committee which included: improving resource mobilization; train and build the capacity of animal welfare focal persons; harmonize institutional governance of animal welfare; and, support awareness and advocacy across countries. She also urged that animal welfare workforce need to be improved while and systemizing inter-sectoral collaborations for animal welfare. In conclusion, she emphasized that evidence from the study showed that animal welfare impacts several aspects of public health and social-economic development. It hence presented an opportunity and an urgent need for stakeholders to act in ensuring a continental-wide multi-level intersectoral stakeholder action for animal welfare.

# Session 6 :

## Conclusion and Way Forward





## Joint Statement on Animal Welfare and Climate Change Towards COP 27 Mr. Wachira Kariuki, ANAW

Mr. Wachira shared the joint statement to be presented at the COP 27 conference taking place in Egypt in November 2022. He highlighted the organizations that had agreed to and signed the statement. He then urged the organizations present to read through the presented joint statement and add their signatures to signify their agreement with it:  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1p0ng6VfrRs\\_6SbQESXWC7LVQ\\_uPZCkgw/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1p0ng6VfrRs_6SbQESXWC7LVQ_uPZCkgw/view?usp=share_link)

### CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

1. Urge the African Union Member States through AU-IBAR to adopt and implement animal welfare policies and legislation to address welfare concerns of farm and working animals at national, regional and continental level.
2. Table a resolution at UNEA that recognizes animal sentience as an important consideration to be taken into account when developing policies on environment, sustainable development, regenerative production and sustainable consumption.
3. Urge the AUC to work with academic and research institutions and other organizations to champion and to enhance One Health research in Africa and to establish and promote ethical standards in animal welfare research.
4. Urge AU Member States through AU-IBAR to promote the inclusion of women and youth in the animal resource industry.
5. Request AU Member States through AU-IBAR and development partners to adopt Guidelines for Incorporation of Animal Welfare in Development Cooperation Projects.
6. Appeal to Civil Society Organizations in Africa to engage with and seek accreditation with UNEP for enhanced cooperation, information sharing and actions towards promoting animal welfare, environment and sustainable development.
7. Urge Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and Africa governments to promote evidence-based approach in interventions through research, capacity building, education and awareness on animal welfare in Africa.
8. Call on governments, humanitarian agencies and animal welfare organizations to work together to establish and promote partnerships to address animals in disaster situations.
9. Request AU-IBAR to work with African Union Member States to urgently invest in the development of policies, legislation and programs for implementation of Animal Welfare Strategy for Africa (AWSA).



# CLOSING REMARKS

**Chief Guest,  
Deputy Permanent Secretary, Natural Resources, Ministry of Environment and Tourism,  
Republic of Botswana  
Mr. Boatametse Modukanele**

Mr. Modukanele opened his remarks by stating that Africa is the continent with the youngest population worldwide that is on the rise. He further elaborated that the youth constituted a substantial percentage of Africa's population, as per the 2021 statistics which indicated that around 40 percent of the population was aged 15 years and younger, compared to a global average of 26 percent. With that, there appeared to be an inevitable increase in urbanization and infrastructure development that was envisaged to continue for the next 20–30 years. This would lead to population increase and subsequently an increased demand for animal protein which would be met by increasing the livestock production thus encroachment on our forests, or worse through wildlife as an alternative source of protein.

He further indicated that the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) predicted a need for increased conversion of forests into farmland. And since more forests were to be turned into agricultural land, there would be an increased demand for water which would be scarce due to decreased forest cover. He therefore emphasized, referring to the deliberations of the conference, that it would be critical to integrate the needs of the people, animal and the environment to live in a healthy interlinked ecosystem.

Mr. Modukanele elaborated the potential health risk involved resulting from increased interaction between wildlife, domestic animals, and humans. This would lead to increasing the chance of zoonotic disease transmission, noting that 60.3% of Emerging Infectious Diseases (EIDs) are zoonotic in nature and that 71.8% of the zoonotic EIDs come from wildlife. He further noted that the world was

recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic which was an infection with severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2, or SARS-CoV-2, that nearly brought global economies to a halt. Many health experts believed that the first strain of coronavirus likely originated from bats or pangolins.

The first transmission to humans, as documented, was in Wuhan, a city in the Hubei province of China in December 2019 and the virus spread across the globe through person-to-person contact killing over 6.5million as of mid-October 2022. He wondered whether the emergence of Covid-19 as a result of human mistreatment to the bats or the pangolins and highlighted that scientists were still pondering over the transmission mode. He however concluded that the bottom line was that the interconnectedness of humans, animals and environment could lead to huge health repercussions if not well managed.

Mr. Modukanele observed that that the Africa Animal Welfare Conference had for the past three days been a refreshing opportunity for discussing ideas, sharing experiences and learning lessons from professionals and practitioners from different parts of the world, especially on the need for humans, animals and the environment to continue enjoying each other than diminishing each other, especially in this rapidly changing 21st century. He mentioned that Botswana would be keen to follow and implement the key recommendations emerging from the gathering and captured as the conference resolutions.

He concluded by thanking the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) and the Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW) for their tireless effort in making the conference a success.



## Appendix 1: List of Conference Participants

	Name	Organization	Country
1.	Ann-Marie Dzinoreva	International Association for Students in Agriculture and Related Sciences (IAAS)	Zimbabwe
2.	Charei Munene	Biovision Africa Trust	Kenya
3.	Edith Kabesiime	World Animal Protection	Uganda
4.	Emelyne Wright-Hanson	Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation	Ghana
5.	Jemberu Alemu Megenas	Addis Ababa University	Ethiopia
6.	Joana Ciraci	Welttierschutzgesellschaft e.V.	Germany
7.	Josphat Ngonyo	ANAW	Kenya
8.	Kgakgamatso Moseki	National Council of SPCA- South Africa	South Africa
9.	Morgane James	National Council of SPCAs South Africa	South Africa
10.	Mr Kebede Kacho	Agricultural Sector	Ethiopia
11.	Ms Hannatu Adamu	Ahmadu Bello University Zaria	Nigeria
12.	Nazaria Nyaga	Kajiado County	Kenya
13.	Zawu Y. Duyann		Liberia
14.	Adam deerow		Somalia
15.	Alexander Juras	UNEP	Kenya
16.	Amal EL BEKRI	RAPAD MAROC	Morocco
17.	Anna Fallah	Liberia Animal Welfare and Conservation Society	Liberia
18.	Anna Lampard	SPANAN	Kenya
19.	Anne Wandia	ANAW	Kenya

20.	Anoma Priyadarshani		Botswana
21.	Asuka Takita		Kenya
22.	Aurelia Adhiambo	Open Wing Alliance- The Humane League	Kenya
23.	Ayubu Nnko	Education for African Animals Welfare (EAAW)	Tanzania
24.	Bantu Lukambo		DRC
25.	Baone Bosa Baitslepi	BUAN	Botswana
26.	Beatrice Jepkwemioi Cheptot		Kenya
27.	Beatrice Kamamia	Sapphire Women Org.	Kenya
28.	Boscoh Kimathi	KENTTEC	Kenya
29.	Brian Mbanga	ANAW	Kenya
30.	Caitlin Kennedy	Cruelty Free International	United Kingdom
31.	Caroline Mary		
32.	Caroline Mary	animal health industrial training institute	Kenya
33.	Caroline Triza Njiru	ANAW	Kenya
34.	Cathbest Banga	University of Botswana	Botswana
35.	Chandapin Moses		Botswana
36.			
37.	Charles Gaitho		Kenya
38.	Cheikh Ly	IPAR	Senegal
39.	Chiedozi Chiemeka	The Humane Global Network	Nigeria
40.	Ciza Benjamin		Botswana



41.	Clement J. Mwaura Karanja		Kenya
42.	Concepta N. Nyongesa	Veterinary Department	Kenya
43.	Concepta Nafuna		
44.	Cornelius Mwangi Kago	Meat Training Institute (M.T.I)	Kenya
45.	Daisy Lesiew		Botswana
46.	Daniela Battaglia	FAO	Italy
47.	David Mukundi Nyaga		Kenya
48.	David N. Munene		Kenya
49.	David Nyaga		Kenya
50.	David Nyoagbe	Ghana Society for the Protection and Care of Animals (GSPCA)	Ghana
51.	Debbie Vrdoljak	Ndola SPCA	Zambia
52.	Deng Thomas Ayor	BUAN	Botswana
53.	Dineo Odiseng		Kenya
54.	Dineo Rasepuru	BUAN	Botswana
55.	Dr Abdelkader Bensada	UNEP	Kenya
56.	Dr Abdub Golicha Iyya		
57.	Dr Ahmed Tazi		Morocco
58.	Dr Amantle Ntsayakgosi	Ministry of Agriculture, Veterinary Services – Abattoir	Botswana
59.	Dr Andrew Rowan	WellBeing International	United States
60.	Dr Anisia Muriuki	Kevevapi	Kenya
61.	Dr Ann njeri	Kenya Prisons Service	Kenya

62.	Dr Anthony Akunzule	Ghana Poultry Network (GAPNET)	Ghana
63.	Dr Asma Kamili	ONSSA	Morocco
64.	Dr Batatu Mazhani	Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources	Botswana
65.	Dr Bojia Endebu Duguma	The Donkey Sanctuary UK	Ethiopia
66.	Dr Bryce Marock	National Council of SPCAs	South Africa
67.	Dr Calvince Okoth	Farming Systems Kenya	Kenya
68.	Dr Christophe Ntakirutimana	New Vision Veterinary Hospital	Rwanda
69.	Dr Daniel Karagu	Private Sector	Kenya
70.	Dr David Faustine	KMC	Kenya
71.	Dr David Oduori	Maasai Mara University	Kenya
72.	Dr David Waweru	DVS Machakos	Kenya
73.	Dr Dennis Bahati	ANAW	Kenya
74.	Dr Edwell Siatambi Mwaanga	Animal Voice Welfare Platform-Zambia	Zambia
75.	Dr Emma Preston	The Donkey Sanctuary	United Kingdom
76.	Dr Emmanuel Ogwang	Kotido District Local Government	Uganda
77.	Dr Esther Kioko	National Museums of Kenya	Kenya
78.	Dr Evariste Manirahaba	Ruhango District	Rwanda
79.	Dr Gathumbi Kimotho	Private Sector	Kenya
80.	Dr Getachew Mulugeta Adako	Private Sector	Ethiopia
81.	Dr Hilde Vanleeuwe	WCS	Kenya
82.	Dr Ibikunle Faramade	Society for Animal Rights Protection, Nigeria	Nigeria



83.	Dr Isaac Lekoolool	Kenya Wildlife Service	Kenya
84.	Dr Jacktone Achola	County Government of Kajiado	Kenya
85.	Dr Jane Kiama		
86.	Dr Jane Njuguna	Directorate of Veterinary Services	Kenya
87.	Dr Janerose Mutura		Kenya
88.	Dr Jeremiah N. Ngugi	County Government of Taita Taveta	Kenya
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